THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • THURSDAY • OCTOBER 21, 2021 • ₹7.00 • PAGES 18 • LATE CITY EDITION

READ SHARE FOLLOW

newindianexpress.com

facebook.com/thenewindianxpress twitter.com/newindianxpress

instagram.com/newindianexpress

INDIA AMONG COUNTRIES WITH HIGHEST HEAT WAVE EXPOSURE

India and Brazil had the biggest absolute increase in heat-related mortality between 2018 and 2019, according a new Lancet report

CODE RED FOR A HEALTHY FUTURE

In addition to direct impacts on health, high temperatures can also affect people's ability to work, says Lancet's 2021 report, marked 'Code Red for a Healthy Future'. Half of the total work hours lost globally occurred in the agricultural sector, the report noted. Pakistan, Bangladesh and India had the greatest losses, aggregating three times the world average, it added

STEEP RISE IN EXTREME DROUGHT EVENTS

- In 2020, up to 19% of the global land surface was affected by extreme drought in any given month. "Millions of farmers and construction workers could have lost income because on some days it's just too hot for them to work," said Prof Anthony Costello, Executive Director of the Lancet Countdown | P9

295 bn hrs

OF POTENTIAL WORK LOST ACROSS THE WORLD IN 2020 DUE TO HEAT EXPOSURE

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Travellers have to be fully vaccinated, RT-PCR not mandatory on arrival

EASE OF ACCESS FOR FLIERS FROM 11 COUNTRIES

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @New Delhi

IN fresh guidelines for international arrivals, India eased the screening process for countries with which it has reciprocal recognition of vaccination certificates.

The new norms kick in from October 25 and supersede all previous advisories.

Fully vaccinated passengers from 11 countries with which India has a mutual recognition deal will not be required to undergo RT-PCR tests on arrival. All others will have to take that test on arrival.

The 11 nations are France, the UK, Germany, Nepal, Belarus, Lebanon, Armenia, Ukraine, Belgium, Hungary and Serbia. Travellers from these countries, if fully vaccinated (at least 15 days before the day of travel), will be allowed to leave the airport and self-monitor their health for 14 days after arrival. However, before boarding, they will need to upload a negative RT-PCR test report and vaccination certificates on Air Suvidha portal.

Each of them will also have to submit a declaration on the authenticity of the report and will be liable for criminal prosecution, if found otherwise.

Those partially or not vaccinated from the 11 countries will need to submit themselves for Covid test at the port of arrival and undergo home quarantine for seven days. They need to take a re-test on the eighth day of arrival, and if the result is negative, self-monitor their health for next seven days.

These measures will apply to all passengers coming from the rest of the world irrespective of their vaccination status, as India does not have a reciprocal arrangement with them.

NATIONWIDE	OCT 19	OCT 20
Fresh cases	13,058	14,623
Recoveries	19,470	19,446
Deaths	164	197

KARNATAKA	OCT 19	OCT 20
Fresh cases	349	462
Recoveries	399	479
Deaths	14	9

FACEBOOK FINED $69.4 MN

Britain's competition watchdog has fined Facebook 50.5 mn pounds ($69.4 mn) for violating rules during the UK investigation into the firm's purchase of Giphy | PTI

Aryan moves HC after special court denies bail

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

A file picture of Aryan Khan being taken to jail after being arrested by NCB | PTI

A special Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act court on Wednesday refused bail to Aryan Khan, son of Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan, and two other accused in the cruise ship drugs case. The court denied bail to the 23-year-old and his friend Arbaaz Merchant and fashion model Munmun Dhamecha, observing that his WhatsApp chats revealed he was indulging in "illicit drug activities on a regular basis". The court also said there was a mention of "bulk quantity and hard drugs" in his WhatsApp chats, showing that Khan was in contact with drug dealers. "There is prima facie material showing that accused No 1 was in contact with persons dealing in prohibited narcotic substances," the order said.

After his bail plea was rejected, Aryan moved the Bombay High Court. The matter is likely to be mentioned before Justice N W Sambre on Thursday.

Rejecting bail, the court said the evidence on record shows the accused persons are part of a larger network.

SC raps UP for dragging feet on Lakhimpur

KANU SARDA @New Delhi

HAULING up the UP Police for not recording statements of vulnerable witnesses in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence, the Supreme Court on Wednesday pulled it up for dilly-dallying and delaying the filing of the status report in the probe. Eight persons, including four farmers, were killed in the violence on October 3.

"We think you are dragging your feet. Please dispel that impression," observed a bench led by Chief Justice of India N V Ramana. The remarks came while perusing the UP government's status report that was filed in a sealed cover just before the hearing. "We had expected it (report) yesterday and waited for it till late night," the CJI told UP's counsel, adding they hadn't instructed filing it in a sealed cover.

In the past, the court faced had criticism for the sealed cover procedure in sensitive cases like the Rafale scam.

During the hearing, the bench asked as to why the police had recorded statements of only four out of 44 witnesses under Section 164 of the CrPC. "This statement (164 CrPC) has more evidentiary value; why haven't you recorded them? Statement before police will not lead anywhere," Justice Suryakant said.

Senior advocate Harish Salve, who also represented UP, claimed the probe into the killing of farmers was still on and the process to record statements is ongoing. He said the police had recorded two FIRs — one related to the murder case allegedly involving the son of a Union minister after SUVs ploughed into farmers in the village, and the other in which the crowd lynched and killed those who were in the cars.

Salve said 10 people have been arrested in connection with the farmers' killing, of which four are still in police custody. Saying it was only concerned with the attack on farmers, the bench asked whether the accused were taken into police custody. The counsel said prior to being sent to jail, the six accused were in police custody.

Witness protection

The bench told Salve to protect vulnerable witnesses. "You are in a better position to ascertain who needs protection. Record their statements and give them protection." Salve said he will make sure the UP govt draws up a witness protection plan and will share the details on October 26, the next date of hearing

A file picture of a burnt jeep at Lakhimpur Kheri in Uttar Pradesh

Stranded tourists being evacuated from the landslide-affected area of Khairna in Nainital on Wednesday | PTI

Uttarakhand toll at 55, rescue operations pick up speed

VINEET UPADHYAY @ Dehradun

WITH weather conditions improving in Uttarakhand, the magnitude of the calamity became clearer on Wednesday as the toll due to rain-related incidents touched 55. The figure is likely to go up as five people are still missing and some of the 17 injured are in critical condition. Sources said some of the missing could be buried under the debris of houses that were levelled by landslides.

The torrential rains that battered the hilly state for the past few days have left roads blocked with boulders and villages without electricity.

Out of four the shrines of the Char Dham Yatra – Kedarnath, Badrinath, Yamunotri and Gangotri – the route to Badrinath remains closed due to landslide.

On Wednesday, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami toured the rain-hit areas of the Kumaon region, instructing officials to prepare an estimate of the damage. Union Home Minister Amit Shah is expected to conduct an aerial survey on Thursday.

With rains abating, rescue efforts have picked up speed. Apart from the National Disaster Response Force, Indian Army and Indian Air Force, the State Disaster Response Force, state police and local administration are carrying out the rescue and relief operations.

The National Disaster Response Force said it has rescued over 1,300 people from flood-affected areas of the state. The federal force has pressed into service 17 rescue teams in the state. P10

4 from K'taka yet to be traced

Bengaluru: As many as 96 people from Karnataka are said to be stranded in flood-hit Uttarakhand, of whom three are from Bengaluru. The authorities in Uttarakhand and Karnataka have been unable to establish contact with the three. Karnataka officials have been told that they are safe in Badrinath. But none from the government has been able to contact them, because of poor communication network. Another person is an SSB jawan and the SSB control room has been informed about him. The jawan, who was on leave, was on a personal visit. P7

Gangtok cut off as torrential rain pounds Sikkim

Kolkata: Heavy rains pounded the tiny Himalayan state of Sikkim and the tea growing region of North Bengal, causing landslides that cut off National Highway-10, the main road linking Gangtok with the rest of the country. Thousands of tourists, who thronged the hills during the Durga Puja season, got stranded because of torrential downpour in Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts

Rain helps Karnataka make up Cauvery water shortfall to Tamil Nadu

K SHIVA KUMAR @Mysuru

THE heavy rainfall in catchment areas of Kabini and Cauvery river basins has helped Karnataka make up a shortfall of 25.84 tmcft of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu as mandated by the Cauvery Water Regulatory Committee.

Just before the heavy rains started this month, Karnataka was facing a difficult water position as the Kabini and KRS reservoirs had not received sufficient inflows. The committee had ordered the state to release the backlog and ensure that 14 tmcft of water was available at the Biligundlu measuring point before October 30.

With the heavy downpour in Kodagu inflows increased to 14,000 cusecs for about a week taking the KRS dam level from 112 tmcft to 120 tmcft. At the Kabini reservoir, too, the inflows increased to 7,000 cusecs and the authorities for a week released 6,000 cusecs every day.

In August, the committee had ordered Karnataka to release 32 tmcft of water, and within 10 days, the water level at the KRS dam had come down from 120 tmcft to 112 tmcft, shattering the hopes of local farmers.

However, the timely rain will allow farmers in both KRS and Kabini dam areas to grow two crops. The KRS achukat requires an average of 6-7 tmcft of water per month to cater to standing crops.

Bommai offers help to flood-hit Kerala

Bengaluru: Karnataka Chief Minister Basvaraj Bommai on Wednesday spoke to his Kerala counterpart Pinarayi Vijayan and offered assistance for rescue and relief operations in areas hit by heavy rain and landslides in the neighbouring state. "Spoke to Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan and expressed deep grief over the loss of lives due to heavy rains and landslides," the CM tweeted after speaking to Vijayan. Bommai said he asked Chief Secretary P Ravi Kumar to be in touch with the Kerala Chief Secretary to provide all help

The incessant rainfall in the Markonahalli catchment added more than 6,000 cusecs, while Bengaluru showers contributed 1,200 cusecs to Shimsha river, making up 3.5 tmcft of 12 tmcft of water discharged to Tamil Nadu.

CONTINUED ON: P7

EXPRESS READ

4 militants eliminated in Jammu and Kashmir

Srinagar: Security forces on Wednesday eliminated four militants, including two commanders of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT), who were involved in the killing of migrant labourers in Jammu and Kashmir, the police said | P10

India outplay Australia in final warm-up

Dubai: India fine-tuned their T20 World Cup preparations with an eight-wicket win over Australia in their final warm-up game on Wednesday. India chased down Australia's 152/5 in 17.5 overs, with Rohit Sharma leading from the front | P13

DIFFICULT LIFE

WHEN DEVELOPMENT GIVES THESE TRIBAL HAMLETS A MISS

B THIPPERUDRAPPA @Chikkamagaluru

THE bright rays of development are yet to shine on two tiny hamlets of Mudigere taluk of Chikkamagaluru district. The Gowdlu tribals, who inhabit these settlements, don't have access to roads, bridges, hospitals or schools and depend on a town that is 20km away for all their basic needs.

The two hamlets, Karle and Kalkodu Eechaluhole, fall under Samse Gram Panchayat. While Eechaluhole has just five families, Karle has 20. The two settlements, on the fringes of Kudremukh National Park, receive heavy rainfall during monsoon, which only aggravates their problems.

It was just last week that two youngsters from Karle had to reach their 70-year-old grandmother, who had fallen sick, to the nearest town, Kalasa. They made her sleep on a blanket, tied its ends to a bamboo stick and carried the makeshift stretcher on their shoulders for the entire 20 km to reach Kalasa. They walked through a narrow, kuccha path and over a temporary bridge, constructed from bamboo, to get her medical help.

The earlier bridge, which too was temporary but was constructed better, was washed away in the deluge of 2019. With no authorities coming to their help, the tribals have constructed the bridge on their own now.

People from Eechaluhole too have to cross a tributary of the Bhadra river to reach Kalasa town. Since that bridge got washed away, they too have built a wooden foot bridge.

KP Naveen of Karle village said that it was not just the 75-year-old, but every ailing and elderly person has to be carried on shoulders to Kalasa. "We badly need road connectivity. Our situation is nightmarish during the rainy season," he added.

Another resident, Prema, told *The New Indian Express* that they submitted memorandums on October 7 and 12 to Mudigere MLA MP Kumaraswamy, Lok Sabha member Shobha Karandlaje and Deputy Commissioner KN Ramesh, detailing their horrible living conditions. They also demanded a proper road and a permanent bridge.

CONTINUED ON: P7

A sick woman of Karle village being carried on a makeshift stretcher last week | EXPRESS

Since the hamlets fall in the national park region, the forest department has to give clearance for any development work, including laying of roads, in the area

— Dr HL Nagaraj, Assistant Commissioner

Sanjjanaa accuses friend of cheating her

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

KANNADA film actor Sanjjanaa Galrani, accused in the 2020 Sandalwood drug case, has filed a complaint against her 'best friend' and a co-accused Rahul Tonse and two others of cheating her of returns from her investments in his casino business in Colombo and Goa.

Sanjjanaa and Tonse were among those arrested by the city police in the drug case in September last year. She was later released on bail.

CONTINUED ON: P5

ALMANAC TODAY
• **Thursday :** 21/10/2021 • **Year:** Plava • **Ayana:** Dakshinayana
• **Ritu:** Sharad • **Masa:** Ashwayuja • **Paksha:** Krishna • **Tithi:** Prathami 8.18 pm
• **Nakshatra:** Ashwini 3.40 pm • Moon in Vrishabha Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm
• **Gulikakala:** 09:00 am to 10:30 am • **Yamaganda:** 03:00 am to 04:30 am

WEATHER
MIN 21°C | MAX 27°C
FORECAST
Thunderstorms. Overcast

Sunrise 6.10 am
Sunset 5.57 pm
Moonrise 6.36 pm
Moonset 6.35 am

Officials call off master plan for Bengaluru drains

Citizens need to make do with existing system

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Basavaraj Bommai may have announced that a master plan would be prepared for the drain network in Bengaluru, but government officials are not ready to take on the responsibility.

"Little can be done," they say. "Citizens will have to make do with the existing drain network and infrastructure, as no new network can be created. This means that the existing drain network will only have to be maintained and continued," sources in the Urban Development Department (UDD) told TNIE.

So, the only option left is to improve the carrying capacity of the existing drains, manage the system, and increase their depth. They are also being worked on, making engineers and officials responsible if the drains are not well maintained or if there's any clogging," the source said. "The engineers, officials and ground staffers will have to work hard to ensure that drains are not encroached further, and are not clogged, failing which they will be dealt with sternly. A mechanism is also being worked on how citizens can be penalised for dumping waste into drains," a senior UDD official said.

BBMP and BWSSB officials admit that several primary, secondary and tertiary drains have been closed. "The exercise to prepare the master plan will help us get the exact and present status of the condition of drains, and their measurement. But adding a new drain network will not be possible," the officials said.

The UDD source said the drain network created 50-60 years ago for the population of Bengaluru, isn't sufficient for the existing population of the city. The lake's interconnection has also been lost. All these will be included in the master plan. It will also lay emphasis on widening them wherever possible.

The UDD official admitted, "The drains should have been maintained, and what is being listed now should have continued, but it has not happened due to private and political issues. Connectivity to the lake cannot be restored, including those lost primary, secondary and tertiary drains. Hence, the new drain master plan will have little or nothing new to offer."

A DECADE OF SAFE RIDES

Since its inception on October 20, 2011, Namma Metro has extended its network from 6.7km to 56.09 km | VINOD KUMAR. T

AAP leads protest with 'Pothole Habba'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

CITIZENS from various parts of Bengaluru joined hands with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Wednesday to stage a protest with a difference -- Pothole Habba.

They decorated potholes with rangoli and flowers, and offered puja to them. They also raised slogans against the government and BBMP for poor road conditions.

AAP state convener Prithvi Reddy said the state government has spent Rs 20,000 crore in the past five years on repairing roads in Bengaluru, yet they are in a pathetic condition. Accidents and deaths have become common due to potholes, he said, and demanded that the government give an account of the money spent, and furnish a white paper on which roads the money was spent on, how much was spent on each road and for what works, who was the official who was awarded the works and contractor who carried it out, and what was the guarantee or warranty provided on each of these roads.

Citizens, along with AAP members, protest against the bad condition of roads by performing puja to huge potholes on various streets on Wednesday

The protesters also demanded that the government immediately conduct a court-monitored probe regarding all these works. Poor quality of work could not have happened without the active support or blessings of the local MLA or corporator. The role of all such persons must be investigated, they said.

Reddy said the deadline set by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai will end soon, and AAP will approach court to demand justice.

Protests were held at Vijayanagar, Chamarajpet, Chikpet, Gandhinagar, Yelahanka, Bommanahalli, Malleswaram, Pulakeshinagar and Mahadevapura.

Honeywell bags ₹496.57-cr project to make city safe

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

HONEYWELL Automation India Limited has bagged the ₹496.57 crore ($67M) Bengaluru Safe City project under the Nirbhaya Fund, by the Government of India. An initiative of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the project aims to create a safe, secure and empowering environment for women and girls in public places, to enable them to pursue all opportunities without the threat of gender-based violence or harassment.

Honeywell will create an integrated Command & Control Centre to manage a state-of-the-art video system that features more than 7,000 video cameras at more than 3,000 locations across the city. The video system will provide advanced video analytics, including facial recognition, a 'Dial 100' application and drones.

Honeywell will also upgrade the existing Suraksha app of the city police to help improve incident response rate and citizen engagement. The Bengaluru Safe City project will be implemented in phases. Honeywell will operate and maintain the security infrastructure for five years.

"We are honoured to be selected for the Bengaluru Safe City project to address a key concern to improve the safety of its citizens, especially women and girls," said Ashish Gaikwad, President, Honeywell India, and Managing Director, HONAUT. "For more than 30 years, Honeywell has supported India's growth with differentiated technologies, working to make our cities safer, smarter and more connected."

Bengaluru is among eight cities selected for the Safe City project, which involves identification of hotspots for crimes against women, and deployment of infrastructure and technology through awareness programmes. "In India, we have been a strong partner to the Government's 100 Smart Cities Mission, with focus on people, process and technology. Our technology-led integrator approach is helping city administrators make informed decisions and improve safety for citizens in near real time. We want to now deliver this for Bengaluru, to turn it into a city that's safer and more resilient," said Ashish Modi, President, Honeywell Building Technologies, Asia.

Honeywell has delivered similar projects under the Smart Cities Mission across multiple states, including Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat.

Security access control at KSR station goes for a toss

S. LALITHA @ Bengaluru

THE Access Control System (ACS) was launched at KSR Railway station as an added layer of security to keep a tab on every vehicle entering and leaving this busy station. Launched on January 26 last year, it was stopped for a few months owing to the Covid-19 pandemic but it was relaunched on August 1 this year. Now, it is not only in shambles but its operations too are erratic. However, the contractor in-charge claims that the system stopped working only four days ago. Rakshak Securitas Pvt Ltd had been awarded a three-year contract by the Indian Rail Stations Development Corporation Limited to run the operations of the Access Control System at the main entrance and parking spaces at the station 24x7 since August. It has also bagged the contract for Pune and Secunderabad railway stations.

General Manager (South Region), Prashant Kumar Singh, told TNIE, "The system stopped working only from October 17. A car hit the boom barrier gate around 12 noon and broke it. A sensor attached to it and is linked to our systems, got damaged and hence, we could not issue tokens to anybody." He claimed, "It has stopped working only for the last four days and will be restored by Thursday afternoon."

As per the contract, the agency needs to pay ₹2 crore and 40 lakh annually inclusive of GST to the Railways, and it has already made its first payment, Singh added. "Unlike parking, there is not much money to be made in access control and so the agency slashed the salaries of the staff. They experienced attrition after reducing the pay. Employees who left for puja holidays are yet to turn up. Though the parking lot is functional, the ACS has not been working for atleast two weeks." the source added. Multiple sources confirmed the access system was working on and off. "There was a problem with their hand-held devices too," a source said.

With Access Control System not functioning inside KSR railway station, vehicles have a free run now

In a nutshell, this is how ACS works

As one enters the main entrance of the station, a boom gate bars entry. An individual with a hand-held device notes down the vehicle number and issues a token. One needs to produce this chit at a similar boom barrier gate at the exit. If a vehicle was inside the station for 7 minutes, no charges are levied. One needs to pay pre-fixed rates of Rs 15 for every additional five minutes for two-wheelers and Rs 25 for four-wheelers.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

21st October : Have you read the latest news about water on Mars? We now know that the planet was once home to rivers and oceans. But is there water there still? If there is, it will be underground and, if so, there is bound to be life. It may be microscopic, but it will still be life. What an amazing thought!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Mercury, the planet of communication, has now picked itself up and dusted itself down after recent bruising encounters. Seldom have you been so determined to get your point across, and rarely have you been the proud possessor of such persuasive powers.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
You can be as self-interested as the next person, yet there's something noble and idealistic about your wisdom and genuine friendship. We will all gain if you continue to act with such generosity of spirit, even in ways which may not be clear for a very long time.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Your lot in life, at the moment, may be rather dull and many Geminians are quite frankly bored. You could do worse than rouse yourself and arrange an adventure, even if only a weekend break, to get away from your routine. There's nothing wrong with being an escapist!

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Although, in astrological tradition, adverse and challenging aspects denote times of strife, discord and confusion, you must see such perils as the grit which eventually produces the pearl of great wisdom and success. In other words, you'll rise to the challenge.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
There is no escaping the fact that tension is mounting, as it always does before the Moon aligns with your sign. You can do no better than consciously maintain an optimistic and tolerant spirit in the face of whatever doubts or irritations afflict your daily life.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
Suspicions about other people's actions may be countered by sadness over a recent event. Whatever your personal situation, you are approaching a short period when the answers will only be found by looking within. You'll soon discover the part you played in creating current conditions.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Nostalgia seems to be an important ingredient at the present time. Many of you will gain from a sentimental trip to the past, not necessarily this week, but hopefully within a month. What you really have to do is recover old feelings and relive glorious memories.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Even those lucky Scorpios who are gentlemen or ladies of leisure will be caught up in the general rush to achieve a deeply-held worldly desire. This is no time for regrets or uncertainty, and you should try not to be distracted by irrelevant memories.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Today's stars really are excellent in that they encourage certain key Sagittarian aspirations, notably the instinctive desire for travel and adventure. Be warned, though, that entrenched positions and dogmatic battles are looming, and that you'd better be ready to change your mind.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
There is everything to gain from taking a calculated financial risk, just as long as you take full responsibility. Even if you incur a small loss, you will have clarified your priorities and personal needs. After all, sometimes you have to learn from your mistakes.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Even peaceable Aquarians are sure to be involved in some sort of fracas over the next week. There may be no other advice than to raise the drawbridge and prepare a defensive position. But, while you're about it, there are other important actions you can take, like acquiring new practical skills.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
Now is a perfect time to pay attention to your physical needs and well-being. Make a fresh start as far as diet and exercise are concerned and remember that the astrological approach to health has more to do with prevention than cure - and with maintaining a sensible balance in your emotions.

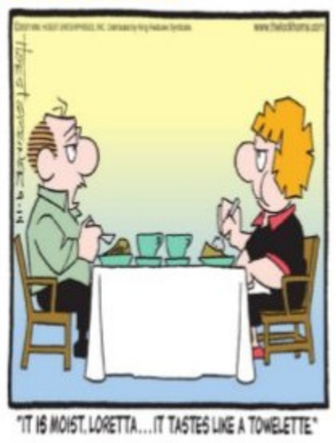
THE PHANTOM

HI AND LOIS

BEETLE BAILEY

BLONDIE

LOCKHORNS



DENNIS THE MENACE

SUDOKU

Medium: Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

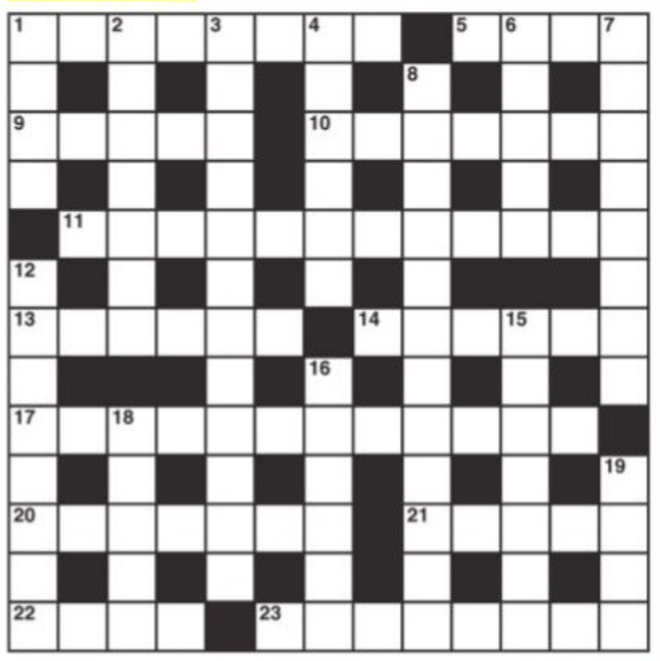
Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

		7			5	3	6	4
	8			4	7			
5	1			2				
				9		6		2
		8		1		5		
7		6		3				
				6			4	8
			4	7			5	
4	7	1	3			9		

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

2	9	8	7	3	5	4	1	6
5	6	7	4	9	1	8	2	3
3	1	4	6	2	8	9	7	5
1	2	5	8	7	3	6	4	9
4	8	3	1	6	9	7	5	2
9	7	6	2	5	4	1	3	8
6	3	9	5	1	7	2	8	4
7	4	2	3	8	6	5	9	1
8	5	1	9	4	2	3	6	7

CROSS WORD



ACROSS
1 Good place for Norman invasion as things turned out (8)
5 Goes downhill fast? (4)
9 Frosted look seen when I'm in debt? (5)
10 Present some evidence at court (7)
11 See 1 Down (3,4,5)
13 Greater king gets royal backing outside (6)
14 A feast of cheese, etc? (6)
17 Fighting man audibly the worse for shouting? (5,7)
20 These spectacles give you double vision (7)
21 Care nothing for ridicule (5)
22 They are nailed on the foot (4)
23 View a way to seek wealth (8)

DOWN
1 and 11 Across: Rigorous and fleeting reigns? (4,3,4,5)
2 Group studying ruined remains (7)
3 Lack of interest shown in a disagreement (12)
4 Agrees to change gun ammunition (6)
6 A bulk transport that's capital (5)
7 Reserved beach about the end of August (3,5)
8 Qualified corn dealers? (12)
12 Every letter is written in it (8)
15 Watches foreign money - not a pretty sight (7)
16 One who plays in the alley (6)
18 Rob with a gun (5)
19 One has a lot of fun with it (4)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Steamship, 8 Loins, 9 Deposit, 10 Minima, 11 Metric, 12 Hysteria, 15 Offender, 18 Antics, 20 Apiece, 21 Atheism, 22 Draft, 23 Youngster.

Down: 2 There, 3 Aboard, 4 Stitched, 5 Plaint, 6 Riviera, 7 Asparagus, 11 Memoranda, 13 Straiten, 14 African, 16 Nicety, 17 Utters, 19 Caste.

JUMBLE By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

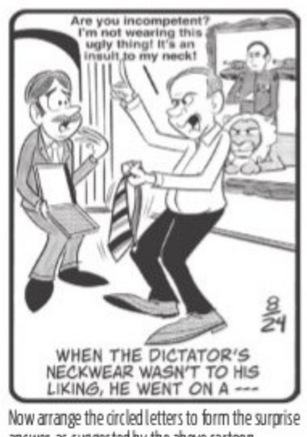
FJFIY

LUFAT

RYOHNT

GREETR

© 2021 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All Rights Reserved.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon

Print your answer here: " ○○○ - ○○○○ "

ANSWERS TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S: **Jumbles:**
PROUD SLANT THWART ISLAND
ANSWER: He borrowed money to open a stand to sell his tank tops and -- LOST HIS SHIRT

Minister for IT/BT and Science and Technology, Dr C N Ashwanth Narayan, on Wednesday said a delegation of investors from the Gulf Cooperative Council countries will visit Karnataka next month to sign several MoUs on various investment proposals

TRACKING COVID-19

SPEED AND RISE OF COVID-19 CASES IN KARNATAKA

462 CASES REPORTED TODAY

CASES AS ON TODAY: TODAY 29,84,484; YESTERDAY 29,84,022

349 CASES REPORTED YESTERDAY

DEATHS: TODAY 9, YESTERDAY 14

The first Covid-19 case in Karnataka was reported on March 8, 2020. Since then until October 20, 2021, a total of 29,84,484 cases have been reported in 1 year and 225 days...

DISCHARGES

TODAY	YESTERDAY
479	399

Active cases

TODAY	9,074
YESTERDAY	9,100

POSITIVITY RATE

TODAY	6.00%
YESTERDAY	6.02%

The day positivity rate - **0.39%** is calculated as the number of patients testing positive out of **100 tests** conducted only in a day.

MORTALITY RATE

TODAY	1.27%
YESTERDAY	1.27%

RECOVERY RATE

TODAY	98.42%
YESTERDAY	98.42%

DISTRICT-WISE COVID CASES

LAST 24 HOURS

253 BENGALURU URBAN	6 BENGALURU RURAL

Bagalkot	0
Ballari	2
Belagavi	6
Bidar	1
Chamarajanagar	5
Chikkaballapur	1
Chikkamagaluru	4
Chitradurga	1
Dakshina Kannada	29
Davanagere	1
Dharwad	2
Gadag	0
Hassan	19
Haveri	0
Kalaburagi	2
Kodagu	12
Kolar	4
Koppal	1
Mandya	10
Mysuru	43
Raichur	0
Ramanagara	1
Shivamogga	9
Tumakuru	32
Udupi	15
Uttara Kannada	1
Vijayapura	1
Yadgir	1

ILI CASES ON THE RISE IN BENGALURU

Lack of hygiene, masking, failure to take flu shot driving numbers

IFFATH FATHIMA @Bengaluru

BENGALURU has seen a high number of Influenza Like Illness (ILI) cases in the past six months, with a total of 23,745 cases from May to October. Experts warn people to take all precautions, and more importantly, take the influenza shot to keep ILI at bay, as it can even be fatal.

ILI is a contagious disease and spreads when a person sneezes, coughs or talks. Going by BBMP data, in May, 9,770 ILI cases were reported, while in June, 3,399 cases were reported, July saw 2,961 cases and August saw 2,982 cases, followed by 3,260 in September. October reported 1,373 cases, and though the figure is comparatively low, health professionals say they are seeing an increase in cases, which will probably shoot up by the end of the month.

Dr Mahesh Kumar, Consultant, Internal Medicine, Narayana Health City, pointed out that in the last month alone, many cases were reported, most of them severe, requiring 3-5 weeks for the infection to settle down, though it usually takes 3-7 days. "The world is seeing an increase in influenza cases, after Covid cases came down. The numbers were low last year, but are exponential this year. This is mainly due to people not following hand hygiene or wearing masks. Clearly, people are not even taking influenza vaccine shots, which is essential. One shot can help keep the flu away, and also prevent death."

Dr Satyanarayana Mysore, HOD of Pulmonology at Manipal Hospitals said, "Before Covid set in, influenza as H1N1 was dreaded. With the focus on Covid vaccination, other inoculations have been pushed to the background. It is important for the elderly and vulnerable population with comorbidities to take both the influenza and pneumococcal vaccine."

On the brighter side, Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) cases have come down with only 1,931 cases reported from May to October. Going by this data, the 30-45 age group is largely infected with SARI and ILI, and over 10,653 cases in this age group were reported from May to October.

"Usually this age group has low immunity as a majority of them are alcoholic and smoke a lot. During the pandemic, work from home has made many obese. Once they start moving out, they are bound to catch infections easily. However, SARI cases have been low and people are reporting infections early," said Dr C Nagaraj, Director of Rajiv Gandhi Institute Of Chest Diseases.

Disclaimer: *All loans are at the sole discretion of HDFC Ltd. For detailed terms & conditions visit www.hdfc.com CIN: L70100MH1977PLC019916. HDFC2211-21

AGE-WISE ILI/ SARI CASES FROM MAY TO OCT

0-12	4,621
12-18	1,482
18-30	7,979
30-45	10,653
45-60	6,231
ABOVE 60	4,289

PRECAUTIONS FOR ILI

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance
- Cover your mouth and nose with tissue when coughing or sneezing
- Follow hand hygiene, wash hands often to keep away germs
- Avoid frequent contact with eyes, nose or mouth
- Healthy lifestyle: Drink plenty of fluids, eat nutritious food, manage stress, do simple breathing exercises, yoga
- Clean and sanitise frequently touched surfaces, especially when someone is ill

A JAB TO CELEBRATE

Gol Gumbaz in Vijayapura is lit up in the hues of the Tricolour as India is all set to breach the 100-crore mark in administering Covid-19 vaccine, on Wednesday

Diabetes, obesity high among migrants from rural areas

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A study by Indian Council of Medical Research-India Diabetes found an increased risk of diabetes, obesity and hypertension among those who have migrated from rural to urban areas in India.

The study, done across 28 states and two Union Territories, shows that prevalence of these non-communicable diseases is higher in non-migrant urban dwellers and rural-urban migrants. The study, 'Effect of Internal Migration on Diabetes and Metabolic Abnormalities in India - The ICMR-INDIAB Study' was published recently in the Journal of Diabetes and its Complications.

"The national study on diabetes and associated cardiometabolic disorders was done in individuals who moved to a different place from their birth, and resided in urban locations for at least one year. It found that prevalence of diabetes, obesity and hypertension was higher in non-migrant urban dwellers and rural population who moved to urban areas," the study says.

The study was led by Dr R Guha Pradeepa, Senior Scientist at the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF), Chennai, along with a team of scientists from various states.

The study being a complex one, involving 28 states and two UTs, was done in phases, and Karnataka was covered in Phase 2, which also included Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat and Punjab. In all, five phases were done with a sample size of 4,000 individuals in each state.

Commenting on the study, lead author Dr Pradeepa says, "The prevalence of diabetes was 14.7 per cent among rural to urban migrants, 13.2 per cent among those permanently residing in urban areas, 12.7 per cent among urban to rural migrants, and 7.7 per cent among those who were permanently residing in rural areas," he said.

Interestingly, the study found that over half the population who migrated from rural to urban areas had abdominal obesity (increased waist circumference) and this was considerably higher compared to the other three groups. The risk for diabetes was nearly two times higher in those who migrated from rural to urban areas, compared to rural dwellers. "Five risk factors -- hypertension, abdominal and generalised obesity, physical inactivity and low fruit and vegetable intake -- together explained 70 per cent of increase in diabetes rate among rural to urban migrants," Dr Guha explained.

While the study proved that the risk was higher, especially in migrants from rural areas, Dr V Mohan, Chairman, Dr Mohan's Diabetes Specialities Centre and President, MDRF, points out that this could be attributed to a change in diet, exercise and possibly other less studied factors like stress and environmental pollution.

Agreeing with the study findings, Dr Abhay Gundubarthi, endocrinologist, Sagar Hospitals, said, "People from villages who come to towns and cities tend to develop more body fat. The usage of oil, sweets, food habits, time spent on watching television etc are also some of the reasons," he added. The researchers call for prevention programmes emphasising a healthy lifestyle for those living in urban settings.

Caseload graph rises once again

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA reported the lowest addition of 214 cases on October 18, but in the last two days, the graph is on the rise, with 349 cases on Tuesday (October 19), and 462 cases on Wednesday. The total positive cases are 29,84,484.

Bengaluru Urban saw a sharp increase with 253 cases, compared to the past two days — 83 cases on October 18 and 161 cases on October 19.

However, the state's positivity rate is consistently reducing.

On October 10, it stood at 6.11 per cent, and slipped to 6.05 per cent on October 15, and further dropped to 6 per cent on October 20.

Meanwhile, the state reported 9 Covid deaths on Wednesday, and 479 discharges. The total Covid deaths are 37,976, with a mortality rate of 1.27 per cent, and total discharges are 29,37,405, with the recovery rate at 98.42 per cent.

Active cases have dropped to 9,074, from 12,469 cases in the beginning of October.

कार्यालय प्रधानाचार्य एवं नियंत्रक, पं. दीनदयाल उपाध्याय मेडिकल कॉलेज, चूरू
website: www.education.rajasthan.gov.in/mcchuru
Email: principal.mc.churu@rajasthan.gov.in Phone: 01562-251888

क्रमांक: मेडिकल कॉलेज/लेखा/निविदा/2nd Renewal/ENT Equipment/2021/4334 दिनांक: 30.09.21

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं. – 06/2021–22 (UBN No.: MCC2122GLOB00008)

पंडित दीनदयाल उपाध्याय मेडिकल कॉलेज, चरू में अनमानित राशि रू. 548.00 लाख के ENT Equipments के उपापन संविदा के इच्छुक जो RTPP Rules-2013 के अनुसार विनिर्दिष्टत पंजिकृत अनुभवी व सदृढ वित्तीय स्थिति वाले बोली दाता/संवेदक हो, से दो रूपों में बोली प्रस्ताव यथा तकनीकी बोली प्रस्ताव एवं वित्तीय बोली प्रस्ताव द्वारा ई–प्रोक्यूरमेंट प्रक्रिया से निविदाए आमंत्रित की जाती है। ऑनलाइन बोली फार्म डाउनलोड प्रारम्भ करने की दिनांक 30.09.2021 समय शाम 04 बजे से तथा फार्म अपलोड करने की अंतिम दिनांक 29.10.2021 को समय शाम 05 बजे तक है। बोली से संबंधित अन्य सम्पूर्ण विवरण वेबसाईट **https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** एवं **www.education.rajasthan.gov.in/mcchuru** पर अवलोकन हेतु अपलोड हैं।

प्रधानाचार्य एवं नियंत्रक,
पं.दीनदयाल उपाध्याय मेडिकल कॉलेज, चूरू

DIPR/C/10262/2021

राष्ट्रीय पशु जैव प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान
National Institute of Animal Biotechnology
An Autonomous Institute of Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt of India
Survey No 37, Opp. Journalist Colony, Near Gowlidoddy, Gachibowli, Hyderabad, Telangana, India - 500 032.

Advertisement No. 20/2021

NIAB, Hyderabad, an autonomous institute under the aegis of Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, is aimed to harness novel and emerging biotechnologies and create knowledge in the cutting edge areas for improving animal health and productivity.

NIAB invites applications from Indian Citizens for filling up the following posts as detailed below:

Positions	Pay Level	No of posts	Remarks
Scientist – G	Level 14	2 (UR)	Deputation(ISTC)/ Absorption
Senior Manager (A&F)	Level 12	1 (UR)	Deputation(ISTC)
Veterinary I/c Large Animal Farms	Level 10 (with NPA)	1 (UR)	Direct Recruitment

Please visit NIAB website **www.niab.org.in** for detailed advertisement and online application form.
Date of commencement of online applications : **21st October 2021**
Last date for submitting online applications : **22nd November 2021**

Sd/- DIRECTOR

Advertising in The New Indian Express 'Business & Enterprise' column helps to reach your customers in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha and The Morning Standard, New Delhi in a cost effective manner, yielding more returns! No matter what your business, find your customers here!

BUSINESS & ENTERPRISE
EXPRESS CONNECTS
EVERY MONDAY For details: 92443 17292

QuoteExpress
YOU CAN'T WAIT FOR INSPIRATION. YOU HAVE TO GO AFTER IT WITH A CLUB
› JACK LONDON

TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD
E-TENDER NOTICE :TANGEDCO/SHORT/ PP-15/2021

TANGEDCO invites E-Tender for procurement of 600 MW power from **17:00 to 22:00 hrs** for the period from **5th November 2021 to 31st December 2021.** Bidding will be done as per the revised guidelines for short term procurement of power notified by the Ministry of Power vide resolution dated 30.03.2016, through e-Bidding portal (DEEP) only. The link for the e-Bidding portal is **www.mstcecommerce.com,** and is also available on the website of Ministry of Power **(www.powermin.nic.in)** and PFC Consulting Ltd **(www.pfcclindia.com).** Specification is available in TANGEDCO website and MSTC DEEP E-Bidding portal.

DIPR/3021/TENDER/2021 CHIEF ENGINEER/PPP/TANGEDCO

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

TNPL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu
Ph.: 04324 - 277001 (10 Lines); E-mail: purchase.rawmatl@tnpl.co.in

CORRIGENDUM

Tender No.	Material Description	Method of Tender: Existing	Method of Tender: Amended
212213 003470	Procurement of DAF Chemicals for De-inking Plant Flocculant - Anionic - 6 MT Flocculant - Cationic - 90 MT Coagulant - Strong Cationic - 180 MT	Tender cum Auction	Two Bid System

All other terms and conditions are as per our earlier Advertisement **dt. 19.10.2021**

DIPR/3012/Tender/2021 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
O & M Circle Office Shakthi Soudha, Bondel, Mangaluru - 575015
Ph: 0824-2483549/2448582/2444915
CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

ಕ್ರಮಾಂಕ:ಆಇಂ(ವಿ)/ಮಂವ್ಯ/ಸಹಾಇಂ(ತಿ)ಕೆಇಂ(ತಿ)/ಕ-6/2021–22/7121–125 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12.10.2021

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

MESCOM Invites for the work of providing **Furniture** to residence of Managing Director MESCOM at Maroli, Mangalore through e-procurement portal from registered PWD Contractors having EPF, ESI, GST and Labour registration. For details NIT and to participate in the Tenders through e-procurement directly you can access the tendering website **http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** from Date: 21.10.2021 at 11.00 hrs onwards. Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (E), O & M Circle Mangalore

For Power Related Complaints & Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

Government of India
Department of Atomic Energy
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
Civil Engineering Section
Post Bag no.1, Yelwal, Mysuru - 571130, Telephone : 2406724/6725, Fax : 0821-240 3064

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Superintending Engineer, BARC, Mysuru, invites for & on behalf of President of India sealed item rate tenders from experienced Contractor with sound financial & technical capacity for following work(s) :

1	Tender Reference No.	**BARC/MYS/CES/07/2021-22**
2	Name of work	**Providing and fixing weld mesh to the existing window grills of various buildings (Phase-1) and miscellaneous civil works at BARC Plant site, Mysuru.**
3	Estimated Cost	**Rs. 9,30,000.00** (Rupees Nine Lakhs Thirty Thousand Only)
4	Earnest Money Deposit	Nil.
5	Period of completion	**6 Months**
6	Sale of Tender Documents	**From 20.10.2021 (10:00 Hrs) to 28.10.2021 (18.00 Hrs)**

Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from web site **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app** and **www.barc.gov.in**

Sd/-
(Superintending Engineer)
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
For & on behalf of the President of India

All the news. In just a click. Log in www.newindianexpress.com

/thenewindianexpress @newindianexpress + The New Indian Express

Google Play App Store

TIRUNELVELI SMART CITY LIMITED
SMART CITIES MISSION

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (NIT)

Tender Notice No.3/Smart City/2021-22/SCM Dated: 18.10.2021

The Managing Director, Tirunelveli Smart City Limited, Tirunelveli hereby invites Bids through both on-line and off-line from eligible bidders for the following works:

Sl. No	Name of Work	Estimate Amount Rs. In Crore	Bid Security Rs. In Lakhs	Period of Completion
1.	Construction of Indoor Stadium in Darling Nagar at Tirunelveli City Municipal Corporation.	6.44	6.44	12 months
2.	Rejuvenating Tourism Attraction Iconic places in Tirunelveli City Municipal Corporation.	6.20	6.20	12 months

A two cover bidding procedure will be adopted. The bidders shall satisfy the qualification criteria and the financial criteria as mentioned in the Bid document. The bidding documents will be available from **22.10.2021 to 23.11.2021.** A pre-bid meeting to be held on **10.11.2021 on 11 hours.** Tender documents can be downloaded from the website **http://tntenders.gov.in.** The bidder shall upload their bids on or before **15.00 hours on 23.11.2021.** The tender will be opened on **15.30 hours on 24.11.2021. Email ID: commr.tirunelveli@tn.gov.in, Office: 0462 - 2329328 Fax: (0462) - 2329327. Managing Director, Tirunelveli Smart City Limited, Tirunelveli Corporation Office, S.N.High Road, Tirunelveli - 627 001.**

Executive Engineer,
Tirunelveli Corporation

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்" DIPR/3009/Tender/2021

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION OF STERLING BIOTECH LIMITED AS A WHOLE, ON A GOING CONCERN BASIS, IN LIQUIDATION
(Under Regulations 32 and 33 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2016)

NOTICE is hereby given to public at large for inviting bids from interested bidders in connection with the e-Auction process to be held by the Liquidator of Sterling Biotech Limited, in liquidation (Corporate Debtor) having CIN L51900MHI985PLC035738 and having its registered office at 43, Atlanta, Nariman Point, Mumbai 400021, Maharashtra, for the acquisition of the Corporate Debtor as a whole, on a going concern basis as per details mentioned in the table below:

Sale Particulars	Mode of Sale	EOI & EMD Submission Deadline	EMD Amount (INR)	Reserve Price (INR)	Date and Time of Auction	Incremental Value (INR)
Corporate Debtor as a whole, on a going concern basis.	e-Auction	On or before 05.11.2021	Refundable; INR 27.42 crores (which is equal to 5% of the Reserve Price)	INR 548.46 crores	10.12.2021 (Friday) From 11:00 a.m. to 02:00 p.m.	INR 2 crores or more

The Corporate Debtor is engaged in production of Gelatin and Fermentation based Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs). The Gelatin is produced from bovine bone and it is primarily used in Pharmaceutical, Nutraceutical and Food Applications. Interested applicants may refer to the Process Document, Version 2.0 dated 21.10.2021 for complete details alongwith the Teaser, uploaded on website of the Corporate Debtor, http://www.sterlingbiotech.in/liquidation.html.

Nothing contained herein shall constitute a binding offer or a commitment for acquisition of the Corporate Debtor as a whole, on a going concern basis. The sale of the Corporate Debtor through e-Auction will be conducted strictly on "AS IS WHERE IS'', "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS''.

The e-Auction Process shall take place through an online e-Auction agency via their website https://ncltauction.auctiontiger.net. For any further information or clarification, you may please reach out to the Liquidator at +91 98310-99551 or her team member, CS Lovkesh Batra at +91 83989-94547.

for Sterling Biotech Limited

sd/-
Dr. (h.c.) CS Adv Mamta Binani
Liquidator
Registration Number: IBBI/IPA – 002/IP-N00086/2017-18/10227
liquidatorsterlingbiotech@gmail.com (process specific)
mamtabinani@gmail.com (registered with IBBI)
Telephone Number: +91 98310 99551
Address of the Liquidator registered with IBBI:
2nd Floor, Nicco House, 2 Hare Street
Kolkata 700001, West Bengal
Date: 21.10.2021

HELPLINE
THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
For subscriptions & Supply related Complaints
Call / WhatsApp
9886143555
7 AM - 4 PM MONDAY to SATURDAY

QuoteExpress
THE ONLY CONSTANT IN THE TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY IS CHANGE › MARC BENIOFF

Mild quake hits Vijayapura dist

A mild earthquake of 3.6 intensity on the Richter scale shook parts of North Karnataka, this time in Vijayapura district on Wednesday morning, an official said. According to the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre, the tremor was felt in Dhanaragi at 10.29 am

BSY disapproves of Kateel's 'drug addict' comment on Rahul

Says he respects the Cong leader and will talk to Kateel to know why he made such a remark

MAHESH M GOUDAR @ Vijayapura

BJP veteran and former chief minister B S Yediyurappa has criticised party state president Nalin Kumar Kateel for his statement referring to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi a "drug addict and peddler."

"Kateel should not have made such a comment on Rahul. I will speak to Kateel to know in what context he made the remark. It is not just Kateel. No one should speak like that about anyone," Yediyurappa told the media at Moratagi village in Sindagi taluk on Wednesday. The former CM was in Sindagi taluk to campaign for party candidate Ramesh Bhusanur ahead of the October 30 bypolls.

Yediyurappa said he respects Rahul. "He (Rahul) enjoys the respect of his party workers... It was not at all necessary to make that remark," the 78-year-old Lingayat strongman added. Responding to a question on the Congress and JDS targeting the RSS, Yediyurappa said, "I have no objection to the Congress and JDS dragging the name of RSS into the campaign. People are intelligent enough to understand the motive behind it. Leaders of both the parties are day-dreaming that they will gain political mileage by this."

He said that the voters of Hanagal and Sindagi will teach the Congress and JDS a lesson in the upcoming bypolls.

BJP leader BS Yediyurappa campaigns for party Sindagi bypoll candidate Ramesh Bhusanur (left) at Moratagi village in Vijayapura district on Wednesday

Meanwhile, Yediyurappa received a rousing welcome from BJP supporters at Moratagi and Golageri villages. It was his first visit to Vijayapura district after stepping down as Chief Minister in July.

Addressing a public rally at Moratagi, Yediyurappa said, "Congress is playing divisive politics. It is using money and liquor to win the bypolls. Whereas, the BJP government, led by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, is not biased towards any one particular group and is committed to the overall development of the state."

Yediyurappa said that as Chief Minister, he never differentiated between people on the basis of their religion or caste. "I introduced several schemes like Sandhya Suraksha Yojana and Kisan Saman Yojana," he added.

Minister for Irrigation Govind Karjol accused the Congress of disrespecting Dr B R Ambedkar by defeating him in elections and not giving space in Delhi to conduct his last rites. "It shows how much they value the Constitution. The Congress sheds crocodile tears to appease SCs and other communities," fumed Karjol.

Cong leaders should apologise for tweet on PM, says KSE

SHIVAMOGGA: RDPR Minister K S Eshwarappa on Wednesday insisted that all Congress leaders should apologise for terming PM Modi as an illiterate (*anghoota chhaap*). Speaking to media persons here, the minister said the BJP never spoke lightly of any national leader of any political party. "So, when a Congress tweet terms PM Modi 'illiterate', how can we keep quiet?" he questioned. Referring to Congress leaders pouncing on BJP state chief Nalin Kumar Kateel's remarks on Rahul Gandhi, Eshwarappa questioned, "Where should these Congress leaders be admitted when they are making such statements against the PM? We never passed comments against national leaders. If you (Congress) continue to do so, then we will have to speak out. Siddaramaiah should apologize for his statement", he demanded.

Araga Jnanendra slams Oppn for remarks on RSS

BENGALURU: Slamming the Congress and JDS leaders, Home Minister Araga Jnanendra on Wednesday said they are attacking the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) as they are competing to grab minority community votes. Taking objection to the former chief minister H D Kumaraswamy statement on the RSS, Jnanendra said, "The RSS is an organisation founded by staunch patriots and nationalists and is engaged in building a strong nation". Ever since the opposition parties realised that RSS leaders and its members are engaged in working selflessly for upholding the unity, integrity and the ethos of the nation, they are indulging in making such statements, he remarked.

BJP indulging in dirty politics: KPCC spokesperson

MYSURU: Hitting out at BJP state president Nalin Kumar Kateel for his remarks on Rahul Gandhi, KPCC spokesperson M Lakshman said that the saffron party is setting a bad precedent by making false accusations and personal remarks against leaders of Opposition parties. Lakshman said that before making derogatory remarks against Congress leaders, BJP leaders should remember that several of their leaders, including Amit Shah and B S Yediyurappa have been behind bars. "If Rahul is a drug peddler, let them order a probe by the NCB," he said. He further said that Kateel has no morality to criticise Rahul when he himself was dragged in a sexual harassment case. "The GDP is falling and prices of essential commodities, including fuel, are skyrocketing. Instead of addressing these issues, the BJP is indulging in dirty politics," he said.

CM Basavaraj Bommai pays tributes to Maharshi Valmiki on Valmiki Jayanti in Bengaluru on Wednesday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Increasing reservation a big challenge, says Bommai

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Wednesday said that considering the demands from various communities for increasing reservation is not an easy task, but insisted that the State Government will make all efforts to do justice within the legal framework after holding consultations with experts.

Speaking at the Valmiki Jayanti celebrations, Bommai said the community has a lot of expectations, especially increase in reservation in education and employment, keeping in mind the rise in their population. The Valmiki community is demanding an increase in reservation from the present 3 per cent to 7.5 per cent.

The aspirations of many communities, including SCs, STs, OBCs have increased and it has to be done within the 50 per cent cap on reservation, Bommai said, adding that there is again a need for a discussion across the country on such demands. "In Karnataka, our government is committed to do justice to all communities. We are consulting legal and social experts to resolve it within the legal framework and we will make all efforts. This is not an easy task and it is a big challenge. We need cooperation from all," Bommai said.

Bommai further said Prime Minister Narendra Modi understood the aspirations of various communities and brought in an amendment to give 10 per cent reservation to economically weaker sections.

The State Government has reconstituted the high-powered committee headed by former Upa Lokayukta and retired High Court judge Justice Subhash B Adi to review quota demands of various communities.

Elaborating on various initiatives to be taken for the welfare of SCs and STs, Bommai said he has directed the officials to increase the number of people who are provided land under the scheme to make landless poor farmers and agriculture labourers, landowners. "We have not been able to give encouragement to women from SC and ST communities to the expected levels. We have spoken to NABARD to ensure that they get assistance to take up works to be financially independent," Bommai added.

The Chief Minister said under the Tribal Sub-Plan of Scheduled Tribes, Rs 7,600 crore is allocated and the programmes will be successful only if the funds reach the eligible beneficiaries. The Maharishi Valmiki Awards were presented on the occasion.

> In Karnataka, our government is committed to do justice to all communities. We are consulting legal and social experts to resolve it within the legal framework and we will make all efforts. This is not an easy task and it is a big challenge. We need cooperation from all
>
> Basavaraj Bommai, Chief Minister

Citizens' groups to protest against CM for moral policing remark

ENS @ Bengaluru

MEMBERS of several civil society groups will be holding statewide protests, including an agitation at Mysore Bank Circle in the city at 11 am on Thursday, demanding that Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai act against incidents of moral policing and withdraw his recent "action-reaction" statement on moral policing incidents in Karnataka.

"With an increasing number of attacks in the name of religion and caste, and extremist groups indulging in violence, the state was expected to ensure an immediate stop to such violence and take action against such groups. Instead, the Chief Minister has made a statement which justifies the 'goondagiri' and makes it seem like it is wrong for the youth of different castes or religions to be friends or fall in love," a statement from the protesting groups read.

Vinay Sreenivasa, advocate with Alternative Law Forum said, "Moral policing incidents lead to segregation based on identity. The CM has an allegiance to constitutional morality and not someone's perception of morality. If he cannot uphold his oath, he must resign." "We will not allow Karnataka to become a land of hate and violence. The CM must take action against the Hindutva goons," they said.

Recently, when reporters sought his reaction to BJP MLA Umanath Kotian escorting two persons accused in a moral policing incident from a police station after their release on interim bail, Bommai said, "It is a sensitive matter. There are many sentiments in society. One needs to behave in a manner that will not hurt such sentiments. If the sentiments are hurt, then action and reaction are bound to happen."

Surjewala tears into BJP over price rise

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Haveri

CONGRESS general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala took on the Bharatiya Janata Party governments at the Centre and in Karnataka over the rise in prices of various commodities, right from vegetables to fuels.

During his campaign at Hanagal on Wednesday, Surjewala said it has become difficult for the poor and middle class people as prices of essential commodities are skyrocketing. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi keeps talking about the past 75 years in his speeches, but prices of essential commodities and fuel are all-time high now. Why should one vote for the BJP? For the rising fuel and LPG prices?" Surjewala mocked.

KARNATAKA ASSEMBLY BYPOLLS DECIDE

Crude oil price was $108 per barrel and petrol price in the country was Rs 70 per litre when the Congress was in power at the Centre about seven years ago. Now, crude oil price is between $70-80 while petrol price is Rs 110, and diesel is Rs 101 per litre, he remarked. "Even during the Covid-19 pandemic, the government did nothing much, except advising people to sit at home. But the Congress candidate, Srinivas Mane, along with party workers, managed to supply oxygen and food kits to needy people, and stood with the people of the constituency," Surjewala said.

Congress general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala campaigns for party candidate Srinivas V Mane in Hanagal on Wednesday

Addressing the gathering, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president D K Shivakumar said BJP leaders do not have any achievements to showcase and hence, they are insulting leaders of other parties. They should be asking people about their problems and addressing them, and not making personal comments on others in derogatory language. The people will them a befitting reply, he said.

Senior leader H K Patil alleged that BJP leaders are intellectually bankrupt and therefore they are making false allegations. The campaigning was held at Belagalpete, Akki-Alur and Kopparasikoppa villages of Hanagal taluk.

Gulf nations to ink investment agreements next month

ENS @ Bengaluru

MINISTER for IT/BT and Science and Technology, Dr C N Ashwanth Narayan, on Wednesday said a delegation of investors from the Gulf Cooperative Council (GCC) countries will visit Karnataka next month to sign several MoUs on various investment proposals. Investors from GCC countries like the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Oman have evinced keen interest to set up a world-class Design District on the outskirts of Bengaluru and various other investment proposals, the minister said on his return from a four-day visit to take part in Dubai Expo-2020.

He said the proposed Rs 1,000 crore Design District will come up on 100-150 acres. Industrial designs of all kinds required for any sector will be done there and a Bengaluru Design Festival will be held there, he said. Through Dubai, the Karnataka Government intends to broadbase its reach and strengthen its relationship with other GCC countries. The Gulf Islamic Investment has also announced plans to set up its office in Bengaluru.

Several firms including Evolvence Group, an investment firm, and Crescent Group, an investment company with diverse interests ranging from logistics, power and engineering, have shown interest to invest in the state. Aster DM Healthcare expressed interest in expansion to tier-2 and -3 cities in Karnataka, while Decker & Halabi has shown interest to set up a water theme park in the state, the statement from the minister's office read.

CITIZEN SERVICES

More services coming to panchayats, panel to look into salary woes

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

WITH the State Government keen on taking several citizen-friendly services to villages, the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Department has decided to streamline its administration, including disbursement of staff salaries, on time.

There are over 6,000 gram panchayats in Karnataka. In order to empower them, the government has proposed to give panchayats the power to issue several essential certificates such as birth and death, income and caste certificates, khatas and occupancy certificates to citizens. At present, residents have to go to their respective taluk centres to avail these services.

This will mean more work for panchayat employees. There have, however, been complaints of panchayat employees not getting paid on time. "We don't get paid for months... We have even protested several times in the past," a panchayat employee told *The New Indian Express*.

"It is wrong to give them more work and not pay them on time. If they protest, the entire administration will collapse," RDPR Department sources said.

In order to look into timely disbursement of salaries to panchayat staff, a committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of the RDPR commissioner. It has been asked to work towards ensuring that the employees are paid before the fifth of every month and disburse pending salaries. The committee has also been asked to study whether funds can be allotted for the last rites of panchayat employees who die in harness.

When contacted, RDPR Minister K S Eshwarappa said, "New panchayat members were elected just a few months ago. They are keen to implement development works and utilising the allotted funds. The department employees play an important role in implementing government programmes and the newly-elected members should bear this in mind. The committee will look into various issues to help streamline the administration. We have told them to submit a report within three months."

The New Indian Express had earlier highlighted the plight of panchayat employees who don't get paid on time. There are over 50,000 people working in various posts like bill collector, waterman, data operator and attender. Most of them were working throughout the Covid-19 lockdowns, reaching out to people in distress, creating awareness in villages on the pandemic and supplying health kits to villagers.

> New panchayat members are keen to implement development works. The department employees play an important role in implementing government programmes and the newly-elected members should bear this in mind
>
> KS Eshwarappa, RDPR Minister

Couple, two kids among five killed as car rams truck

Son survives; family was returning from Goa

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Vijayapura

IN a heart-wrenching incident, five people, including four members of the same family, were killed and one was injured in an accident between a car and a truck near Honaganahalli village of Babaleshwar on Wednesday. The deceased are identified as Tahir Pathan (33), truck driver and a resident of Maharashtra, Manjunath Mundewadi (42), his wife Savitri (37), daughters Aradhya (8) and Ayukta (4), all residents of Sai Park Colony of Vijayapura.

The couple's son Appugouda (10), who suffered injuries, is admitted at a private hospital. He is said to be out of danger.

According to police, "The family was returning from Goa by car, and rammed the truck that was parked by the roadside. The impact was so severe that three members of the family and the truck driver, who was repairing the vehicle, died on the spot."

"The injured were rushed to hospital. The four-year-old girl succumbed after she failed to respond to treatment, and the boy is still under treatment at a private hospital. The family was returning home after a four-day Goa tour," police said.

According to sources, "Manjunath was a private schoolteacher. The family was vacationing as it was Dasara vacation." The bodies of the deceased were handed over to the family after autopsy. A case was registered at Vijayapura Rural police station.

The Toyota Innova which was involved in the accident near Sankeshwar

Hubballi girl killed, five injured in accident near Sankeshwar

Belagavi: In a ghastly accident on NH-4 near Sankeshwar town, a 12-year-old girl was killed while five others sustained severe injuries on Wednesday. The deceased is identified as Priya Manoj Patil, a resident of Navnagar, Hubballi. According to sources, the Hubballi-based family was travelling to Karad, Maharashtra, in a Toyota Innova. The car driver lost control over the steering near Solapur Cross, on the outskirts of Sankeshwar, and rammed a stationary lorry. The condition of Arati Patil is said to be critical, and she is admitted in the ICU, while four others have sustained minor injuries.

SUSPECT KNOWN

Woman tailor stabbed, set on fire at home

ENS @ Bengaluru

A 28-year-old home-alone woman was found murdered in Yarab Nagar in Banashankari on Tuesday. According to the police, no valuables have gone missing from the house, while a suspect has been detained. The police have not divulged the identity of this suspect yet.

The deceased has been identified as Afreen Khanum, a tailor, who was married to Lalu Khan, a timber yard staffer. The couple have two children. The incident took place in the afternoon. The assailants stabbed her multiple times with a pair of scissors, burnt the body and fled, after locking the door from outside. At 5.30 pm when neighbours noticed thick smoke emanating from inside the house and called the victim's elder brother, who broke open the back door and found the burnt body on the bed.

People known to the victim are suspected to be behind the crime. Preliminary investigation, meanwhile, revealed that the couple used to fight frequently as Khan suspected Afreen's fidelity.

POLICE REJIG

8 IPS OFFICERS TRANSFERRED

BENGALURU: The State Government on Wednesday transferred eight IPS officers. While SP and Director (Forensic Sciences Laboratory) P V Vasantrao has been transferred as DCP (North), Bengaluru City; the SP of Raichur district, N P Amrit, has been posted as the SP of Anti-Naxal Force, Karkala, Udupi disrtrict. Kolar SP Ilakkiya Karunakaran will be taking over as the Principal of the Police Training School in Bengaluru and DCP (North) Bengaluru Dharmender Kumar Meena has been transferred as SP and Director of the FSL. While AIGP (Headquarters), Chief Office, Savitha S has been posted as DCP Traffic (North) in Bengaluru City, Mandya SP M Ashwini will take over as AIGP (Headquarters), Chief Office. Suman D Pannekar, SP and DG Karnataka Police Academy, Mysuru, has been transferred as SP of Mandya district; and Nikhil B, SP of Anti-Naxal Force will take over as the SP of Raichur district. ENS

Trusted friend didn't give returns from casino biz: Actor

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

NOW, **Sanjjanaa** has alleged in her complaint that Tonse had lured her into investing in his casino business, but had refused to pay her the returns. She has also accused Tonse — the prime accused — of misusing the money invested by her for "illegal activities" to make profits, while spreading rumours to defame her.

A senior police officer said Sanjjanaa had approached the court after she was cheated by her friends. Based on the court's directions, the Indiranagar police registered a case against Tonse, and the two others — Ramakrishna and Rajeshwari, charging them under IPC Sections pertaining to cheating and criminal intimidation.

Sanjjanaa has alleged that Tonse, in November 2018, had claimed to be the managing director of the group of casinos while trying to convince her to invest in the business and offered her big returns.

Sanjjanaa had invested in the business by transferring money to Tonse's account and also into those of his friends. Later, the accused allegedly refused to share the returns despite her repeated requests. She said she trusted Tonse as a 'brother' and even transferred money into the account of Tonse's parents, who too allegedly convinced her to invest in the business.

"It was my hard-earned money. That's why I demand legal action against them," she reportedly told the court.

The police officer said they have sought phone call records and bank account details of the transactions as part of the investigation, before taking any action against the accused. has decided to float short-term tenders to import Covid vaccines from other countries, to inoculate people in the age group of 18-44. The announcement was made shortly after the Madras High Court posed questions to the government in this regard. Hearing a suo motu petition on Covid-19 management in the State, the court wondered whether the government had decided to issue any global tenders

EXPRESS READ

27 held for IPL betting, ₹78 lakh recovered

Bengaluru: Officers of the Central Crime Branch police have arrested 27 bookies for cricket betting. The accused were wanted for betting during the recent IPL tournament, and Rs 78 lakh in cash was seized from them, the police said. A senior police officer said a special drive was carried out by the CCB to contain the betting menace during the IPL. Accordingly, the officials booked 20 cases related to cricket betting, which the bookies were running in and around the city. During interrogation, the police found that most of the bookies used to operate the racket through mobile apps and online websites.

Customs recover 1.1 kg of gold from Dubai flight

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Air Intelligence unit of Airport Customs on Wednesday morning recovered over 1.1kg of gold, valued at over Rs 54 lakh, from an Indigo flight from Dubai to Bengaluru. While a little over 1kg was recovered in the form of 15 biscuits when the flight was searched by officials at Kempegowda International Airport, 100 grams was seized from a flyer who concealed it as gold pieces inside his mouth.

The recoveries were made from flight no 6E 96 around 2 am on Wednesday.

A Customs source said, "A total of 15 pieces of unclaimed gold biscuits and pieces were obtained from the flight, when rummaging through it. It was of 24 carat purity and valued at Rs 49.6 lakh. It was unclaimed for." Another 100.08 grams in the form of two gold biscuits, valued at Rs 4.88 lakh was seized from a passenger while frisking him. "He tried to smuggle the gold biscuits hidden inside his mouth," he said. The 45-year old flyer was a native of Chennai, the source said.

Indigo is yet to respond to a query in this connection.

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Smt. PADMINI M BAPAT, D/o Manohar G Bapat, aged about 45 years, Resident of Flat No.104, Elegance Brindavan Apartment, 11th Main, 36B Cross, 4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560041 I have changed my name from **'Smt. PADMINI SHRINIVAS PANDHARE'** to **'Smt. PADMINI M BAPAT'**, vide affidavit dated: 18.10.2021 Sworn before notary G. DAYANANDA, Advocate, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, (OLD NAME) SATHYANARAYANA.N, S/o Nagaraju, residing at No. 31/1, 2nd Floor, 1st Cross, Subbanna Garden, Appu Rao Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru-560018, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) SATHYANARAYANA.N** to **(NEW NAME) JAYASATYA VARDHANA** vide affidavit Dated 07/09/2021 sworn before Notary Puttaramaiah, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
(Name Correction)
I, Khushi Kishore Anvekar, residing at Old No. 10, New No.19, 4th Cross, Sudheendra Nagar, Malleswaram, Bangalore 560003 have correctly changed my Daughter's name from **Riya Anvekar** (noted wrongly in her Birth Certificate) to **HANSIKA ANVEKAR** vide **affidavit** dated 13/08/2021 before Advocate & Notary B.R.Shashikala, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, VENKATESHAIAH.N, residing at No. 131, Byatha at Post, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk-560089, have changed my Minor Daughter's name from **PUNYA NIHARIKA .R.V** to **ADVIKA NAYANA VISHNU** vide affidavit Dated 19/10/2021 sworn before Notary Chandrakala, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VALEN TEJ,** Aged about 27 years, S/o. Hanumanthappa, Permanent resident of House No. 58, Kethanayakanahalli Village, Chinthamani Taluk, Ganjigunte, Chikkaballapur, Karnataka - 563 125, have changed my name from **VENKATESH H (VENKATESH HANUMANTHAPPA)** to **VALEN TEJ** vide affidavit dated 20.10.2021 sworn to before K.V. Mani, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, (OLD NAME) HAMSA MALGAL LINGEGOWDA, residing at No. 662, 10th Cross, WOC 2nd Stage, Mahalakshmipuram, Bangalore -560086, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) HAMSA MALGAL LINGEGOWDA** to **(NEW NAME) HAMSAVATHY MALGAL LINGEGOWDA** vide affidavit dated 20/10/2021 sworn before Notary B.Prasanna, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **TARUN VENKAT (TARUN.V.)** (New Name) Son of ETHIRAJ VENKAT, aged 19 Years, Residing at NO.12/67, MIG FLATS, C-BLOCK, DOMLUR, BENGALURU-560071, that I have changed my name from **TARUN** (Old Name) to **TARUN VENKAT (TARUN.V.)** (New Name), henceforth I shall be known and called as **TARUN VENKAT (TARUN.V.)** (New Name) only for all purpose, vide Affidavit dated : **A.R.MUNEER AHMED,** before Notary 20/10/2021 at BENGALURU.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SERVICE NO JC -313480 M NB/SUB Yathish Kumar.M.P. of Unit: CIW, DEPOT BN, MEG & Centre, Bangalore-560042, have changed my Son name from **LAKSHYA BOPPANNA** to **LAKSHYA BOPANNA.M.Y** Vide Affidavit Dated 18.10.2021 sworn before Notary Meer Hassan Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **GURUDATH KAMATH.,** R/at No.G5, Anugraha, VR Terrace, Near Siddhivinayaka Temple, Nobo Nagar, B.G.Road, Bangalore -560076, have changed my minor daughter name from **KSHAMA GURUDATH KAMATH** To **KSHAMA KAMATH** vide affidavit dated:20/10/2021 Before Notary **Harisha.G** Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Mr. **Nalina S P** aged about 48 years R/at Narasimhayya building, 11th cross, T. Dasarahalli, Chokkasandra, Nagasandra post, Bengaluru-560058 do hereby solemnly declare that, in my P.F. (PF UAN 100123267905) my name is wrongly mentioned as **Chandrakala.K.S** instead of **Nalina S P,** I am swearing this affidavit dated 20-10-2021 sworn before Notary M. Devaraja, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SUHAIL AHMED** S/o **Abdul Rahim,** R/at No.14/1, R No.2nd Street, Arunachalam Medliar Street, Seppings Road, Bharathinagar, Bangalore-560051, have changed my name to **MOHAMMED SUHAIL** vide affidavit dated:5/10/2021 Before Notary Meer Hassan Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, (OLD NAME) SURAJ, S/o. Late Shivaraj Basavaraj, residing at No. 253, 31st Main, 17th Cross, J.P.Nagar, 6th Phase, Bangalore-560078, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) SURAJ** to **(NEW NAME) SURAJ SHIVARAJ** vide affidavit dated 05/07/2021 sworn before Notary V.Srinivasa Reddy, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, have changed my name from **B.S. Manjula** to **B.S Pushpa Shankar** Accordingly I have sworn an affidavit on 20/10/2021 before Notary **Sri. V.RANGARAMU** However I am intent to publish my change of name as **B.S Pushpa Shankar** instead of **B.S. Manjula**. My date of birth is 02/09/1967. I have also obtained Aadhar Card and Pan Card in My changed name as **B.S Pushpa Shankar** I am the D/o Late: **B. Sannegowda** and W/o **B.S. Shankar.**

CHANGE OF NAME
I, (OLD NAME) MOHIT, S/o. Jitendra Jain, residing at No. 54, Vishal Nagar, 1st Cross, Near Saibaba Temple, Ballari-583101, Karnataka, India, Now Camp at Bangalore, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) MOHIT** to **(NEW NAME) MOHIT JAIN** vide affidavit Dated 23/09/2021 sworn before Notary D.S.Chandrakanth, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, PUTTARAJU. M, S/o Marigowda, R/at No.102/A, 11th Cross, Kumaraswamy Layout, Chandranagar, Bengaluru South, J.P. Nagar, Bengaluru-560078, The below mentioned names **PUTTARAJU. M,** and **DODDANNA** both the names represent my name only, further and future my name as **PUTTARAJU. M a.k.a DODDANNA.** vide affidavit dated: 18.10.2021 Sworn before notary VANI G.K, Advocate, Bengaluru.

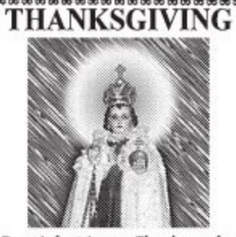
CHANGE OF NAME
I, VIDYASHREE MENASINAKAI MAHARUDRAPPA, W/o Basavaraja Yellarthy, aged about 31 years, residing at # 126, 3rd Cross, Brookebond, Opp. HLLRC, Whitefield, Bengaluru-560066, have changed my name to VIDYASHREE YELLARTHY vide Affidavit dated 20.10.2021, sworn to before Notary M. Krishnamurthy, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, No. JC-413777H Rank SUB Name: Sarat Kumar Patro Father of Shreyan Kumar Patra resident of Vill-Bila Sahi, Near Hanuman Temple Gosaninuagaon, PO-Gasaninuagaon, Teh-Berhampur, Dist-Ganjam(Odisha), Pin-760003 have changed my son's name from SHREYAN KUMAR PATRA to SHREYAN KUMAR PATRO vide affidavit dated 14/10/2021 before Notary S.R.Ravikumar, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SUDIPTEE RANI PATRA spouse of JC-413777H SUB, Sarat Kumar Patro resident of Vill-Bila Sahi, Near Hanuman Temple, Gosaninuagaon, PO-Gosaninuagaon, Teh-Berhampur, Dist- Ganjam (Odisha), Pin-760003 have changed my name from SUDIPTEE RANI PATRA to SUDIPTEE RANI PATRO vide affidavit dated 14/10/2021 before Notary S.R.Ravikumar, Bengaluru.

Your Guide to Spicy living
INDULGE
Every Friday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

THANKSGIVING



(UNDER RULE 53 OF THE SECOND SCHEDULE OF THE INCOME TAX ACT 1961)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES (BANKING DIVISION),
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, BENGALURU
Jeevan Mangal Building, 1st Floor, No-4, Residency Road, Bangalore - 560 025.
Dated: 18.10.2021

FORM No.22 [See Regulation - 37(1)]
REGISTERED A/D /DASTI/ AFFIXATION /BEAT OF DRUM
Sale Proclamation Office of The Recovery Officer-I
In The Debts Recovery Tribunal-2, at Bangalore
T.R.C.No.342/2017 IN O.A.No.457/2000
Proclamation of Sale Under Rules 38, 52(2) of The Second Schedule to The Income Tax 1961 Read with the Recovery of Debts due to Bank And Financial Institutions Act,1993

Between
HDFC Bank Ltd.,
and
M/s Dr.B.M.Thippeswamy Memorial Educational Institutions And Others
To,
1. Dr.B.M.Thippeswamy Memorial Educational Institutions,
103,6th Cross, Kumara Krupa West, Bangalore-560 020.
2. Dr.B.T.Mallikarjuna,
103,6th Cross, Kumara Krupa West, Bangalore-560 020.
Represented by Legal Heirs,
Smt B M Pushpalatha, W/o.Late B.T.Mallikarjuna,
R/a 6th Cross, Subbareddy Building,1st Floor,
Behind PVS Nursing Home, JCR Extension, Chitradurga-577501.
Sri.B M Rahul, S/o Late B.T.Mallikarjuna
R/a 6th Cross, Subbareddy Building,1st Floor,
Behind PVS Nursing Home,JCR Extension, Chitradurga-577501
Sri B M Nakul, S/o Late B.T.Mallikarjuna
R/a 6th Cross, Subbareddy Building, 1st Floor, Behind PVS Nursing Home, JCR Extension,Chitradurga-577501
3. Smt B M Pushpalatha, W/o.Late B.T.Mallikarjuna
103, 6th Cross, Kumara Krupa West, Bangalore-560 020.

Certified Debtors

Whereas you has/have failed to pay the sum of **Rs.1,52,78,510.00 (Rupees One Crore Fifty Two Lakh Seventy Eight Thousand Five Hundred Ten Only)** payable by you/him in respect of Recovery Certificate in OA.No.457/2000 By the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bangalore and the interest and costs payable as per certificate.

And whereas the undersigned has ordered the sale of property mentioned in the Schedule below in satisfaction of the said certificate.

And whereas there will be due there under a sum **Rs.62,34,29,319.56 (Rupees Sixty Two Crore Thirty Four Lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Three Hundred Nineteen and Paise Fifty Six Only)** including costs and interest thereon as on 16-10-2021 along with future interest and costs till realization (Note:Any recovery/amounts paid in respect of the loan, dues lying with DRT, Bangalore or with the certificate Holder Bank, which are recovered by other modes of recovery, shall be adjusted to the loan dues at the time of closure of the cases).

Notice is hereby given that in absence of any order of postponement, the said property shall be sold on 24/11/2021 between 11:00 am to 12:00 noon by e-auction and bidding shall take place through **"Online Electronic Bidding" through the website http://www.bankeauctions.com of "M/s. C1 India Pvt Ltd", email id: karnataka@c1india.com, support@bankeauctions.com, contact person Gangadhara Nayak.Mob:9900711744**

For further detail contact: Mr.Srivathsan Varadhan, Senior Manager, Recovery HDFC Bank Ltd, Department for Special Operations, No.7 & 7/1, Essel Chambers, 2nd Floor, Lalbagh Road, Richmond Circle, Bangalore-560027; Phone/Mobile:-7022570664.

The sale will be of the property of the defendant above named as mentioned in the schedule below and the liabilities and claims attaching to the said property, so far as they have been ascertained, are those specified in the schedule against each lot.

The property will be put up for the sale in the lots specified in the schedule. If the amount to be realized is satisfied by the sale of a portion of the property, the sale shall be immediately stopped with respect to the remainder. The sale also be stopped if, before any lot is knocked down, the arrears mentioned in the said certificate, interest costs (including cost of the sale) are tendered to the officer conducting the sale or proof is given to his satisfaction that the amount of such certificate, interest and costs have been paid to the undersigned.

No officer of other person, having any duty to perform in connection with sale, however, either directly or indirectly bid for, acquire or attempt to acquire any interest in the property sold. The sale shall be subject to the conditions prescribed in Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act, 1961 and the rules made there under and to the further following conditions.

That The Certificate Holder submits that Borrower has not paid the property tax for the mortgage property for a sum of Rs.28,21,098/-(Rupees Twenty Eight Lakh Twenty One Thousand and Ninety Eight only) is due to BBMP including the interest.

The particulars specified in the annexed schedule have been stated to the best of the **information** of the undersigned, but the undersigned shall not be answerable for any error, mis-statement or omission in this proclamation.

1. The reserve price below which the properties (schedule mentioned below) shall not be sold is Rs.11,75,00,000/- in respect of properties described in Schedule as A & B.

2.The amount by which the biddings are to be increased shall be Rs.10,00,000/- In the event of any dispute arising as to the amount of bid, or as to the bidder, the lot shall at once be again put up to auction.

3.The Prospective bidders are advised to peruse the copies of title deeds with the bank and verify the latest encumbrance certificate and other Reveune / Municipal records to exercise due diligence and satisfy themselves on the title and encumbrances, if any, over the properties.

4. The highest bidder shall be declared to be the purchaser of any lot provided that further that the amount bid by him is not less than the reserve price. It shall be in the discretion of the undersigned to decline/accept the highest bid when the price offered appears so clearly inadequate as to make it inadvisable to do so.

5. For participating in e-auction, intending bidders have to deposit a refundable EMD of 10% of Reserve price of the property which shall be Rs.1,17,50,000/- (Rupees One Crore Seventeen Lakh Fifty Thousand Only) through RTGS/NEFT directly into the current Account No. **6735242318 the name of RECOVERY OFFICER-1, DRT-2 of Indian Bank, Richmond Road, Bengaluru having IFSC Code No.IDIB000R018 on or before 22.11.2021 or by way of DD/pay order in favour of Recovery Officer-1, DRT-II, Bengaluru in O.A.No.457/2000(TRC.No.342/2017). The intending bidder should submit the quotation along with copy of PAN Card, address proof & ID, E-mail ID, Mobile number and in case anyother document confirming representation/attorney of the company the receipt/counterfoil of such deposit/Demand Drafts towards EMD in sealed cover by 3.00 p.m. on 22.11.2021 to Recovery Officer-1, DRT-II, Bengaluru. The sealed cover should be superscribed with Quotation for participation in e-auctionin TRC No.342/2017 in O.A.No.457/2000. The tender forms may be collected from the Bank Office or the office of the DRT. EMD deposited thereafter shall not be considered for participation in e-auction.**

6. The successful bidder shall have to pay 25% of the sale proceeds after adjustment of EMD on being knocked down by next date **i.e. 25.11.2021 by 3:00 P.M. in the said account as per detail mentioned in para 5 above.** If the next day is Holiday or Sunday, then on next first office day.

7. The purchaser shall deposit the balance **75% of the sale proceeds on or before 15th day from the date of sale of the property, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day be Sunday or other Holiday, then on the first office day after the 15th day by prescribed mode as stated in para 5 above. In addition to the above, the purchaser shall also deposit Poundage Fee with Recovery Officer-1, DRT-II, Bangalore at 2% upto Rs.1000/- and @ 1% of the excess of the said amount of Rs.1000/- through Online by visiting Website: http://www.bankeauctions.com, http://www.bharatkosh.gov.in and submit a copy of receipt for verification and record purpose to Recovery Officer-1, DRT-II, Bengaluru.**

8.The Prospective bidder are advised to peruse the copies of title deeds with the Bank and verify the latest Encumbrance Certificate and other Reveune/Municipal records to exercise due diligence and satisfy themselves on the title and encumbrance, if any over the property.

In case of default of payment within the prescribed period, the deposit, after defraying the expenses of the sale, may, if the undersigned thinks fit, shall be forfeited to the Government and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold. The property shall be resold, after the issue of fresh proclamation of sale.

The property is being sold on **"AS IS WHEREAS IS & AS IS WHAT IS BASIS".**

The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids if found unreasonable or postpone the auction at anytime without assigning any reason.

No of Lots	Description of the property to be sold with the names of the co-owners where the property belongs to defaulter and any other person as co-owners.	Reserve Price/EMD	Revenue assessed upon the property or any part thereof	Details of any other encumbrance to which property is liable	Claims, if any, which have been put forward to the property, and any other known particulars bearing on its nature and value. 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
1	**SCHEDULE-A:** All that piece and parcel of built up area of about 3950 square feet on northern portion of land measuring about 9000 square feet out of the total land situated at property No.43,Kaneshmari No.68/326,Nagarbhavi Road, Nagarbhavi Gramatana, Mallathahalli Gram Panchayat, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore. Land measuring east to west(165+195)/2 and north to south 100 feet bounded on the East By:Remaining Site of Shri Kempaiah, West By:80 Feet Nagarbhavi Main Road; North By:Building of Sri Ramachandra; SouthBy: property sold to Smt.B.M. Pushpalatha **SCHEDULE-B:** All that piece and parcel of built up area of about 3427.50 square feet on southern portion of land measuring about 9000 square feet out of the total land situated at property No.43, Kaneshmari,No.68/326, Nagar bhavi Road, Nagar bhavi Gramatana, Mallathahalli Gram Panchayat, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore. Land measuring east to west (165 +195) / 2 and north to south 100 feet bounded on the East By: Remaining Site of Shri Kempaiah, West By:80 Feet Nagarbhavi Main Road; North By :Remaining Portion of Sri B.T.Mallikarjuna; South By: Remaining Portion of Sri Kempaiah.	**Reserve Price Rs. 11,75,00,000/-** (Rupees Eleven Crores Seventy Five Lakh Only) **EMD Rs. 1,17,50,000/-** (Rupees One Crore Seventeen Lakh Fifty Thousand Only)	**Rs. 28,21,098/-** dues towards the property tax to BBMP	Nil	Nil

Auction Schedule	
Date and Time of Auction	24/11/2021 Between 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon
Reserve Price	Rs.11,75,00,000/- (Rupees Eleven Crores Seventy Five Lakh Only)
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs.1,17,50,000/- (Rupees One Crore Seventeen Lakh Fifty Thousand Only)
Last Date and Time of E-Tender form & EMD Submission	22/11/2021 15:00:00
Bid Increment Amount	Rs.10,00,000/-(Rupees Ten Lakh Only)

Given under my hand and seal on this 18th Day of October 2021.

Recovery Officer-1
Debts Recovery Tribunal-II
Bengaluru

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that my client intends to purchase the Schedule Property from **SMT. MUTHU LAKSHMI. R**, W/o Sri. Rajangam. N, residing at No.22, 1st Floor, Hongasandra Village, Garebhavipalya, Bommanahalli, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk.

Any person having any objection regarding the said sale transaction, may contact the undersigned advocate with relevant documents within 7 days from the date of this publication failing which it shall be deemed that there is no objection of any nature and my client will complete the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Northern Portion of Site No.22, BBMP Khatha No.22/181/32 (old CMC Khatha No.181), formed in Assessment No.32, Situated at Hongasandra (V), Garebhavipalya, Bommanahalli, Begur (H), Bangalore South (Tq), Now within the limits of BBMP in ward No.189, measuring East to West 30 Feet and North to South 20 Feet, totally measuring 600 Sq.ft., and bounded on East by: Road, West by: Remaining property belongs to others, North by :Private Property, South by: Reaming Property in Site No.22/1. Consisting of RCC roofed residential house measuring 4 Squares on the Ground Floor, 5 Squares each duplex on the First and Second Floor having vitrified tiles with all civic amenities.

Sd/- **K.R.Bharadwaj & Associates,**
Advocates,
No.32, 1st Floor, Sukh Sagar Cross Road,
3rd Cross, 3rd Main K.K. Halli,
Bangalore -560084. Ph. 9844011141
E.mail: krblawassociates@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public in General that my client **Mr. THANSHEED MOHAMMED ABDULLA**, aged about 36 years, S/o. Mr. Thekkil Belinjam Mohammed, resident of Mogral Puthur, Puthur, Kasaragod, Kerala – 671124, Presently residing at No.24/4, 2nd Cross, Behind Masjid e Mina, Old Gurappanepalya, BTM 1st Stage, Bengaluru – 560029, has terminated/revoked / cancelled the General Power of Attorney executed in favour of one **Mr AKBAR SHARIFF** S/o Late O.D Khasim Sab, Aged about 49 years, residing at 62/24, Baith Ul Heamdh , 2nd Main, 9th A main Road, BTM Layout 1st stage, Bangalore -560029 to look after on behalf of my client in respect of below mentioned schedule property.

I hereby inform to the General Public/ officers that in view of revocation/ Cancellation/ termination of General Power of Attorney , nobody shall deal any transactions with the one **Mr AKBAR SHARIFF** with regard to schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of an immovable Property bearing Site No.54, in Khatha No.55/5, situated at 2nd Cross, Old Gurappanapalya, Bengaluru, presently this property comes under the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Bengaluru, measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 30 feet, in all measuring 1200 Square feet, together with building thereon , with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface and bounded on the East by: Site No.55, West by: Road, North by: Site No.50, South by: Site No.63.

Counsel address:
BASAVARAJU H, Advocate
A & B Law Associates
No 2720, 12th Main 4th Block, Jayanagar,
Bangalore -560011. Mob: 9611988555

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Mr. NADEEMULLA KHAN**, Aged about 53 years, S/o. Mr. Nayamathulla Khan, Residing at No. 5, Kandhaswamy Mudaliar Road, Frazer Town, Bangalore-560005, intends to purchase the schedule property from Mr. Fareed Jamsheed, S/o. Mr. Jamsheed Shaik Mustafa, residing at No. 187, 2nd Cross, Kutty Colony, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560 011. Those who are having any title, right, claim or interest in the Schedule property may contact me with their legitimate claims within 7 days, failing which my client will purchase the Schedule property, as the same is free from all claims /encumbrance and no claim shall be entertained later.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the part and parcel of the immovable residential vacant site bearing No. 14, at **"EMERALD RESIDENCY"** Layout in converted Survey No. 33/2, vie Conversion Order No. B.DIS.ALN. SR (NA)135/04-05, Dated: 03/09/2004, Byatarayanapura CMC Khatha No. 871, Present BBMP No. 871/33/2/14, BBMP Ward No.05, Situated at Sampigehalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, presently comes under Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Limits Measuring East to West: 40 feet and North to South: 30 feet, totally measuring 1200 Square feet, and bounded on East by : Road, West by: Site No.21, North by: Site No.13, South by: Site No. 15.

K. AJAYAKUMAR, Advocate,
AJAY & ASSOCIATES,# 18, 1st floor,
Thimmaiah Garden, Devegowda Road,
R .T. Nagar Post, Bangalore-560 032.
Ph.(0) 23335132 & 08048506640,
Mob.9880140512.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public by my client **MRS.NIRMALA KESHAVAMURTHY** D/o. Late. A. D. John, R/at No.1999/8, South End 'E' Road, 26th Main, Near Ragiguda Temple, Jayanagar 9th Block, Bangalore -560069, the original Sale Deed No.BLN-1-24768/2005-06, Book-I, Stored in CD No.BLND216, dated 13-02-2006 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore (North) Bangalore purchased by her sister Miss.Isabella John in respect of Property bearing Site No.3, Khaneshumari No.57, Katha No.1670, Situated at Kacharakanahalli (V), Kasaba (H), Bangalore North (Tq), in Ward No.89, measuring Eastern side 35 Feet, Western side 31 Feet, Northern side 35 Feet and Southern side 35 Feet, totally measuring 1155 Sq.ft, was lost by her sister Late. Isabella John during her lifetime while in transit which was noticed by my client on 15-10-2021.

Any person who finds the said document shall hand the undersigned advocate and he will be rewarded suitably.

Sd/- **K.R. BHARADWAJ,** Advocate,
No.32, 1st Floor, 3rd Cross,
3rd Main, Sukhsagar Cross Road, K.K.halli,
Bangalore-560084. Mob:9844011141
E-Mail: krblawassociates@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients i.e., **SRI. ANIL RAJ A.R.** S/o Sri. Papanna Rajendra Kumar, aged about 37 years, R/at No.252/7, 9th Main Road, Near Corporation Head Office, Sampangiramanagar, Bengaluru-560 027 and **SRI V. RAMESH** S/o Late S. Venkataramanappa, aged about 43 years, R/at No.15, 9th Cross, 4th Main, Sampangiramanagar, Bengaluru-560 027, intending to purchase the Schedule Property from **SMT. NAGAMMA** W/o Late Yellappa and others, aged about 76 years, R/at Jayamangala, Malur Taluk, Kolar District-563 160, who is legal heirs of Late Venkatappa S/o Late Munivenkatappa for valuable sale consideration.

If any person/s having any claim, interest, title or right over the Schedule Property, such person/s may lodge his/her/their objections with the undersigned documentary proof within 15 days from the date of the publication of this notice, failing which my clients will proceed with the said transaction complying with all legal formalities.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing **No.56,** BBMP PID No.77-13-56, situated at C.Rudra Muniyappa Road, 4th Main, 8th Cross, Sampangiramanagar, Bengaluru-560 027, BBMP Ward No.110-Sampangiramanagar (Old Ward No.77), measuring **East to West 13 Feet** and **North to South 40 Feet,** totally measuring to an extent of 520 Sq.Feet and bounded on East by: Property belongs to Smt.Chayadevi, West by: Property belongs to Smt. Sharadamma and Krishnappa, North by: Property belongs to Sri.E.R.Chowdari and South by: Road.

Sd/- **M. Ramachandra,** Advocate,
No.37/9, Koramangala Village,
Bengaluru-560 095.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Banashankari Branch: No 334/22, 41st Cross, Jayanagar 8th Block, Bangalore-560082.
PH: 080-22443179, 080- 26651140, E-Mail: vjbana@bankofbaroda.co.in

Notice Under Section 13(2) of Chapter-III of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act of 2002

Notice is hereby given to the below mentioned Borrower(s) that the below mentioned Borrower(s) were sanctioned financial assistance by Bank of Baroda, Banashankari Branch, by way of Term loan. The said financial assistance has been secured, inter alia, by mortgage by deposit of title deeds of the properties mentioned below. As the Borrower's have defaulted in repayment of the said financial assistance in terms of the Loan Agreement executed by them with the bank, the accounts of the Borrowers has been classified as Non-Performing Asset (NPA) in the books of Bank of Baroda in terms of the guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from time to time. Necessary notice was issued/served by Bank of Baroda Under section 13(2) of the SARFAESI Act at the respective addresses of the Borrower(s) by "Registered Post With Acknowledgement Due" which was returned/without proper signature of the borrowers. In view of the aforesaid, this public notice is issued in compliance with Proviso to Rule 3(1) of the SARFAESI Rules. Please note that you shall not transfer or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of your business) any of the Secured Assets, without prior written consent of Bank of Baroda, Banashankari Branch, failing which you shall be liable for an offence punishable under section 29 of the SARFAESI Act. The Borrower(s) attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. In the circumstances, Borrowers is, once again, requested to pay the aforesaid amount within 60 days from the date hereof failing which Bank of Baroda, Banashankari Branch, as a secured creditor shall be entitled to enforce its security interest, under the provisions of the SARFAESI Act as also under any other law as available to Bank of Baroda, Banashankari Branch for realising its dues.

Demand Notice Date: 29.09.2021 Purpose of the Loan - **Term Loan (Housing loan)**
A) Name of the Borrowers: Mr. Shaik Irfan Khan, S/o Yusuff Basha Khan, Mr. Yusuff Basha Khan, S/o Basha Khan, Mrs. Haseena Begum, W/o Yusuff Basha Khan, No.399, Ground floor, East Road, Austin town, Bangalore, Karnataka 560047.
B) Loan Outstanding: Rs. 12,41,921.08 (Rupees Twelve Lakhs Forty One Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty One and Eight Paise Only) as on 27.09.2021, plus Applicable Interest and charges thereon, less further payments made by you if any from 27.09.2021.
C) Schedule of the Property: Flat No.208, Second Floor, measuring 816 Sq Ft at "SRIVEN RAG MERIDIAN", Sy No.134, Kachanayakanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore 560099. Boundaries: East By: Land in Re Sy No.111, West by: Remaining portion of land in Sy No.134, North By: Land in Re Sy No.131, South by: Road.

Date : 21.10.2021 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place : Bengaluru **Bank of Baroda**

GIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD.

CORPORATE OFFICE / HEAD OFFICE : GICHFL, National Insurance Building,
6th Floor, J. T. Road, Next to Astoria Hotel, Churchgate, Mumbai, 400 020 Tel.: (022) 43041900
Email: corporate@gichf.com Website: www.gichfindia.com
YELAHANKA BRANCH OFFICE: No. 792, 2nd Floor, MIG II Stage, Mother Dairy Road, Yelahanka New Town, Bangalore-560064.
Ph: 080-28463056 Email: yelahanka@gichfindia.com

DEMAND NOTICE

(IN PURSUANCE WITH SECTION 13 (2) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002)

GIC Housing Finance Ltd. (GICHFL) has sanctioned Housing loan to the following borrower(s) to purchase/Mortgage/Renovation and Construction of premises by creating equitable mortgage in favor of GICHFL. The repayment of the loan(s) is irregular and the account(s) is finally classified as Non Performing Asset in accordance with directions and guidelines of National Housing Bank.

GICHFL has therefore invoked its rights under section 13 (2) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 and called upon the borrower(s) to repay the total outstanding due mentioned therein, within 60 days from the date of the said Demand notice(s).

The borrower(s) is hereby again called upon publicly to pay the said total dues plus the charges & interest accrued till date within 60 days from the date of this notice failing which GICHFL shall resort to all or any of the legal rights to TAKE POSSESSION of the said property(ies) and dispose it and adjust the proceeds against the outstanding dues amount. The borrower(s) is also restrained from alienating or creating third party interest on the ownership of the property(ies).

Sr. No	File No./Name Of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s) & Guarantor	Description of the property Mortgaged	Outstanding Amount as Per Demand Notice (Rs.)*	Date Of Demand Notice
1	KA0590600000386/ KRISHNAMURTHY PRAVEENKUMAR	Flat No.402, 4th Floor, Sun Rise Apartments, Site No.1218 Bearing Khaneshmari No.138, Sy No.133/1, Shree Ananthnagar Phase-II, Kammasandra Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore-560100.	RS.28,67,013/- As on 30 JUNE 2021	30.07.2021
2	KA0590600000570/ BHARATH KUMAR LADDIPELLY	Site No.2296, Old No.37, Kh No-2133/143, Sy No.23, Aarna Enclave Apartments, Flat No.402, 4th Floor, Kammasandra Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, Bangalore-56100.	RS.33,85,772/- As on 30 JUNE 2021	30.07.2021
3	KA0590100000257/ PATELL SRREENIVAS REDDY	Site No's 59/2 & 59/3, Khatha No.504, Present BBMP Khatha No.910/504/59/2 & 896/504/59/3, Sy No.58, Chikkabettahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore-560097.	RS.38,11,283/- As on 30 JUNE 2021	30.07.2021
4	KA0590600000490/ MUNIYAPPA RAMESHA	Southern Portion of Site No.2 & Northern Portion of Site No.3, Assessment No.13/1 & 13/2, Tarabanahalli Village, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore.	RS.25,37,776/- As on 30 JUNE 2021	30.07.2021
5	KA0590600000839 R PUNEETHA	Akkupete CMC Khaneshumari Old Khatha No.320/319/ 3853/48, New Khatha No.327/320/319/3853/48, 1St Division, Ward No.23, Devanahalli Taluk, Devanahalli Bangalore Rural District.	RS.14,40,358/- As on 30 JUNE 2021	30.07.2021
6	KA0590600000816/ SMEEK DUTTA	Flat No.405, 4th Floor, Paramount A Apartments, Site No's.17, 18, 26, 27, 19,20, Panchayath Khatha No.2625, Sy No.22/1, Kammasandra Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore-560100.	RS.43,66,797/- As on 30 JUNE 2021	30.07.2021
7	KA0590600000258/ SOMAVENKATANAGA DANESHWARARAO MALLURI	Site No's.181 & 182, Khatha No.1031, Flat No.103, 1st Floor, Rathna Lavender Apartments, Motce Co-Operative Housing Society Ltd. Layout, 4th Stage, Sanchar Nagar, Thanisandra, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore-560077.	RS.31,09,045/- As on 30 JUNE 2021	30.07.2021
8	KA0590100000781/ HIDAYATHULLA GAFFOR	Site No.127, Formed Out of Sy No.36, Now Within The Limits of Bbmp Having Khatha No.DA/117/PR/166/2017-18, Adugodi Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore,	RS.27,73,525/- As on 30 JUNE 2021	30.07.2021
9	AP0590600000244/ SAMA SANJEEVAREDDY	Sy No.206, Plot No.52, (Type-A) Srirama Nagar, Kondapur Village, Ghmc Serilingampally Circle, Serilingampally Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Hyderabad.	RS.60,19,639/- As on 31 JULY 2021	17.08.2021
10	KA0590600000121/ NARAYANA AVINASH	House No.79, Old No.56, 6th Cross, Oppo To Petrol Bunk, Domlur, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore-560071.	RS.16,94,009/- As on 31 JULY 2021	17.08.2021
11	KA0590600000636/ M MOHAN KUMAR	Site No.44, Assessment No.66/2, Khatha No.66, Gowdahalli Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore-562123.	RS.16,91,109/- As on 31 JULY 2021	17.08.2021
12	KA0590600000017/ GUTTAPPA JAYARAMAIAH	Site No.8, Sy No.21/01, Khatha No.1942, Assessment No.2077, Muniyellamma Layout, Swarnakuppam, Robertsonpet Hobli, KGF And (Collateral Security Property No.2) Site No.1, Khatha No.171, Balaji Street, Royal Pet, Pungannur Taluk, Chitoor District, Andrapradesh.	RS.22,14,755/- As on 31 AUGUST 2021	09.09.2021
13	KA0590600000433 & KA0590600000523/ SRISHA H PRAVEEN	Eastern Portion Of Residential Vacant Site No.6 (Formed Out of Property No.116/2A), Mahadevapura City Municipal Council Khatha No.6, Situated At Munnelolala Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore.	RS.37,93,924/- As on 31 AUGUST 2021	15.09.2021
14	KA0590600000608/ BHASKAR DEVRAJ	Old Site No.20, Municipal New No.143/20, Dasarahalli CMC Khatha No.250, Sy No.143, Duggalamma Layout, Laggere Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore.	RS.23,17,262/- As on 31 AUGUST 2021	17.09.2021
15	KA0590600000610/ VENKATESHA D V	Site No.14, Assessment No's.13/1 & 13/2 Situated At Tarabanahalli Village, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore.	RS.19,60,775/- As on 31 AUGUST 2021	16.09.2021
16	KA0590600000658/ CHANNAPPA POLURAJU	Site No.86/1, Formed In The Layout Namely "Country Nest" Comes Under Property No.67/1A-1B, Sathnur Village Panchayath Khatha No.67/1A-1B/86/1, Situated At Sathnur Village, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore.	RS.11,84,002/- As on 31 AUGUST 2021	15.09.2021
17	KA0590600000408/ SABAPATHI SRINIVASAN	Flat No.206, 2nd Floor, DS-Max Status Apartments, Site No's.19,20,29 & 30, Sy No.156, New Sy No.58/1, Khatha No.316/334, Avalahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore.	RS.35,75,235/- As on 31 AUGUST 2021	15.09.2021
18	KA0590600000363/ SHIVRAM MOHAN REDDY	Flat No.G-02, Ground Floor, Rhythm Bliss Apartments, Site No.98, Sy No.116/2, Khatha No's.2701/116/2/98, Green House Layout, Doddathogur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore-560100.	RS.25,64,354/- As on 31 AUGUST 2021	15.09.2021
19	KA0590600000370/ MOHAMMED SUHAIL	Site No.146, Mummy Daddy Residential Layout Phase-1, Khatha No.143/2 Situated At Kariyappanahalli Village, Bannerghatta Dhakale, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore.	RS.63,28,658/- As on 31 AUGUST 2021	15.09.2021
20	KA0590600000876/ KAMARAJA H B	Site No.10/1, Old Sy No.156, New Sy No.156/7, Chikkabanavara Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore.	RS.15,53,104/- As on 31 AUGUST 2021	17.09.2021
21	KA0590600000361/ HINDUPUR SREESHA HARISH	Site No.7, Assessment No.72, Khatha No.141/1, BBMP Khatha No.141/1/72/7 Situated at Kothanur Village, J.P. Nagar, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore.	RS.26,18,689/- As on 31 AUGUST 2021	17.09.2021
22	KA0590600000583/ K N MUKUNDA	Site No.60, Khatha No.86, Assessment No.61/2, Sri Sai Enclave Layout, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Hurulichikkanahalli Village, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore.	RS.17,98,415/- As on 31 AUGUST 2021	27.09.2021
23	KA0590600000009/ VENKATACHALAIAH VEERABHADRAIAH	Eastern Portion Of Property No.60/67, Old Khatha No.60, House List No.67, 8th Cross, Ravindra Nagar, T Dasarahalli, Mallasandra Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore-560057.	RS.14,49,898/- As on 31 AUGUST 2021	27.09.2021
24	KA0590600000179/ MR. RAJA PENCHALAIAH GORIPARTI	Survey No.110/2, Khatha No.824, Site Property No.2/110/2, Situated At Handaralli Village, Budigere Po, Channarayapatna Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.	RS. 14,38,396/- As on 30 SEPTEMBER 2021	11.10.2021

*** THIS SIGN SHOWS - EXCLUDING OF LEGAL & MISC. EXP.**

THIS NOTICE WILL ALSO BE PASTED ON THE OUTER DOOR OF THE BORROWER'S LAST KNOWN ADDRESS AND AT THE MORTGAGED PROEPRTY (IES)

Date : 21.10.2021 **For GIC Housing Finance Ltd.**
Place : Yelahanka **Sd/-**
Authorised Officer

TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD

Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Sl.No	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No	Total
1	CE/Civil/ETPP	05	1

For details of works/Procurement/Due date of submission/ opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit website : **www.tangedco.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app, www.tenders.tn.gov.in** DIPR/3024/TENDER/2021

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

TAMIL NADU TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD

Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Sl.No	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No	Total
1	SE / Transmission - IV	T - 2212, T - 2213	2
2	CE / P&C	1054	1
3	CE / C / Transmission	T - 42	1

For details of works/Procurement/Due date of submission/opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit website, **www.tantransco.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app** DIPR/3025/TENDER/2021

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

10/3/8, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru 560001

Reserve Bank of India, Bengaluru invites

1. Applications for empanelment (to prepare a panel of reputed suppliers) for undertaking supply of a) Vegetables and Fruits b) Non – Vegetarian Items c) Milk and Dairy Items d) Groceries to Officers' Lounge and Dining Room. Last date for submission of applications in MSTC portal (www.mstcecommerce.com) is November 12, 2021(3pm).
2. E-Tenders for "Facility Management Services and Annual Maintenance Contract for Computers Hardware, Software and IT Peripherals". Last date for submission of e-tender in MSTC portal (www.mstcecommerce.com) is November 19, 2021(3pm).

Tender forms, details of qualification criteria and notice are available at "Tender" section of our website www.rbi.org.in and MSTC portal.

Regional Director, RBI, Bengaluru

Note: Corrigendum if any will be issued in the Bank's website only.

TNPL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED

Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu
Ph.: 04324 - 277001 (10 Lines), Fax : 04324 - 277025 / 276368

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
212213 003475	Optical Brightening Agent For Paper Machine #1, 2 & 3	09.11.2021
212213 003481	Procurement of 720 GSM Kraft Corrugated Circular Disc (5 Ply) - 97 CM for Unit-I & II - 140 MT	03.11.2021
212213 003482	Enlistment of Vendors for supply of Heavy Duty LDPE Shrink Film, Tape - White Transparent, Stretch Films of various sizes for Unit - I & II	11.11.2021
Email	212213003475 - purchase.rawmatl@tnpl.co.in 212213003481 & 3482 - purchase.packing@tnpl.co.in	

Terms & conditions, Specifications, Qty, Tender Fee, EMD are available in tender document at our websites : **www.tnpl.com / www.tenders.tn.gov.in**

DIPR/3035/Tender/2021 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

JAIPUR VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
AJMER VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
JODHPUR VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

FOR VIRTUAL SEGREGATION OF 11KV FEEDERS

IN RAJASTHAN DISCOMS

Rajasthan DISCOMS intends to segregate agriculture load on its 11kV feeders with the help of advance Information and Communication/ Smart Technologies without going for laying out of separate agriculture feeder(s). The solution should be low cost, reliable and scalable suitable to be deployed on existing Distribution transformers.

In this context, interested entities may submit their proposal through mail to sera@jvvnl.org and xendsm@jvvnl.org covering proposed concept with any past experience of implementation of the concept and contact details including address, contract no. & email id within 15 days of issuance of this notice. Please note that no financial proposal / bid is required to be submitted against this EOI.

Based on the submitted proposal, JVVNL may request the interested entities to present their concept before competent authority for onward processing.

JPR 2649 (2021)
Raj.samwad/C/21/7354

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (REGULATION)

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521

No. SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AE/F-98(5)/21-22/7337-38 Date: 18.10.2021

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through e-Procurement Portal only)

KPTCL, invites bids for the following works vide **Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AE/21-22/EPR-10/CALL-3 (Package-1), Dated: 04.08.2021** coming under Jurisdiction of Peenya Section, TLM Sub Division, Rajajinagar, TL&SS Division, KPTCL, SRS Peenya, Bangalore on **Total Turnkey Basis.**

1) Providing intermediate tower to the existing 220kV D/C Nelamangala 3&4 Lines between the location nos: 1155 & 1156 at Pillappa Layout in Kariobanahalli for increasing vertical clearance.

2) Providing an intermediate 220kV tower to increase the vertical clearance of existing 220kV S/C Peenya - Subramanyapura line between location No.34 & 35 in ITI layout, Nayandahalli.

The bids will be received through **'e-Procurement Mode' only.** The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **'e-Procurement-KPTCL'** or to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **22.10.2021.** Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned. Sd/- **Superintending Engineer, Elecl.,**
Transmission (Maintenance), BMAZ, North Circle, KPTCL,
A.R. Circle, Bangalore - 560 009, Telefax: 22386686-85

STATE BANK OF INDIA

ASSET RECOVERY MANAGEMENT BRANCH
Mysore Bank Building, BKG Complex,
'A'Block, 2nd Floor
Avenue Road, Bengaluru-560 009.
Telephone:080-25943765/25943769
E-Mail: sbi.40564@sbi.co.in

Authorised Officer's Details:
Name Shri. Vinaya K
E-mail ID: sbi.40564@sbi.co.in
Mobile No: 9448946013
Landline No.(office): 080-25943765

Appendix – IV-A
[See Proviso to rule 8(6)]
Sale notice for sale of immovable property

E-auction SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSET UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 READ WITH PROVISO Rule 8 (6) of the security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower, that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured creditor, physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of State Bank of India, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on **11.11.2021** for recovery of **Rs. 45,84,491/-** (Rupees Forty Five Lakhs Eighty Four Thousand Four Hundred and Ninety One only) as on 17.10.2021+ interest + expenses and costs, due to State Bank of India, Secured creditor **Sri.Prashanth Kumar K.C** (Borrower). The reserve price, earnest money deposit and bid increment amount and last date for receipt of EMD will be as under:-

Property No.	Reserve Price (below which the property will not be sold)	Earnest Money Deposit	Bid increment amount
1.	Rs. 21,08,000/-	Rs. 2,10,800/-	Rs.10,000/-

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Tender No: SBI/ARMB/KRV/29

Property No. 1– (Title deed holder:Shri. Prashanth Kumar K.C)

All that piece and parcel of residential apartment bearing Flat No. 205 in Second Floor of the apartment building known as "SiddarthaSrinilaya" with super built area 976sqft, with one covered car parking space and bounded on East by :Private Property, West by: Flat No. 202, North by: Flat No. 204 and South by: Flat No.206, with 200Sq.feet undivided share, right, title and interest in the land bearing converted Sy. No. 9/4, Old Gram PanchayathKhatha No. 6684/6208/9/4, now assigned New panchayath Raj Computerized Khatha No. 6608/9/4, with PID No. 150200103101106709 (in form No. 11B Rule 30(7), converted from agricultural to non-agricultural residential purposes vide its order No. ALN(A)SR127/2012-13, dated: 07.09.2012 and the conversion order issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru District, Bengaluru situated at Kammasandra Village, AttibeleHobli, AnekalTaluk, Bengaluru Urban District, measuring 0 acres 5 ½ guntas and bounded on East by: Remaining portion of Sy. No. 9/4 belonging to Shri.T.Nagaraju, West by: Government Road, North by: Property of H.Muniyappa and South by: Property of Mes Muniyappa.

To the best of knowledge of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on any of the above said properties. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp.

Place : Bengaluru
Date: 21.10.2021

Sd/- Authorised Officer
State Bank of India
ARMB, Bengaluru

NOTICE

Sania Daughter of Kanayalal resides at No. 238 2nd main 8th Cross HIG Colony RMV II stage Bangalore-94 is applying to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Home Affairs for Naturalization and that any person who knows any reason why naturalization should not be granted should send the signed statement of the facts to the said secretary

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General public that my client intending to purchase the vacant site No. 1907 which is described in the schedule hereunder from **Mr. MANOJ V SHAH** Son of Vasantaraj V shah R/@ #24 Chandralok 5th Cross Gandinagar, Bengaluru, who is the owner of the below referred Scheduled property Apart from the said owner if any person/s has /have any kind of right, title, share, interest and climes or whatsoever in respect of the below referred schedule property, they are hereby called upon to file the objections along with documentary proof within 7 days from the date of this publication to the below referred address. If no objections are received within the stipulated time, it will be presumed that the above referred owner is the absolute owner of the schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the vacant **site bearing No. 1907 (formed in Sy.No. 8/1** of Gidadhakonenahalli village) in 8th Block, Sir M. Vishweshwaraiah Layout (formed by Banglore Development Authority) Bangalore and measuring East to West :12 meters and North to South: 18 meters, intotal measuring 216 square meters & bounded on: :-

East by : Private property
West by : private property
North by : Road
South by : Site No.1908 & Private property

BALACHANDRA.Y.S, ADVOCATE
113-F, 4-D, 4th Floor, Central Chambers
2nd main, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru-09.
Contact No.: 9448240067
BENGALURU Dated: 21.10.2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General public that our clients Sri. Ganapati Hegde S/o Sri. Ganesh Hegde and Asha N K W/o. Ganapathi Hegde, are negotiating to purchase the Proposed Flat No. C 501, Wing No. 1, in Fifth Floor of C Block, in a Residential Apartment Known as "PIONEER KRS PARK ROYAL", property bearing BBMP Khata No. 340/341/Sy.No. 54, situated at Kenchenahalli Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bangalore. Any person/s, institutions having any objection for the proposed transaction of sale, and any claim in respect of the schedule property may lodge their objection/claim with necessary documents with the undersigned within 15 Days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which our clients will proceed to complete the sale transaction. Objections received thereafter will not bind on our clients whatsoever.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of Proposed Flat No. C 501, Wing No. 1, in Fifth Floor of C Block, in a Residential Apartment Known as "PIONEER KRS PARK ROYAL", property bearing BBMP Khata No. 340/341/Sy.No. 54 totally situated at Kenchenahalli Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bangalore consisting of bed rooms, a kitchen with utility, dining and living room with balcony, measuring 1,570 sq.ft. of Super Built-up area and one covered Car parking space in the stilt floor.

Sri. Prabhakar, Sri. S. Ravishankar
Sri. Srirangan H R, Advocates
No. 210/3, 20th Main,
Near Siddalingeswara Theatre,
J.P.Nagar 6th Phase, Bangalore-78.
Phone No. 6366326121, 9731376635
Date : 21.10.2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client **Sri. N.D. SHIVANANDA** S/o Late N. Doddamalliaradhya, aged about 55 years, Now R/at No.409, 8th Main Road, Judicial Layout 2nd Phase, Talagattapura, Kanakpura Main Road, Bangalore-560109, intends to purchase Site No. 14 and 15 Khatha No. 15/5, in part of Sy. No. 15/5, situated at Thalaghattapura Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, in all total measuring 4,800 sq. feet, more fully described in the schedule hereto from its original owners Sri. K. Murali S/o K. Siddaiah Naidu, and Sri. K. Nagaraj Naidu S/o K. Siddaiah Naidu,both are R/at No.10/62, 3rdCross, Srinivasanagara, BSK 3rd stage,Bangalore-560085.

Any person/s having any rights or title, interest, mortgage, lien, court orders, or claim or possession against the said land or having any objection of whatsoever nature to the proposed transaction may, within fifteen days hereof, lodge with us his claim in this behalf together with the relevant documentary proof in support of such right, title, interest or claim or objection. If no such claim or objection is received within the above period, our client will presume that no person has any such claim and will proceed with the transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Property bearing Site No.14 and 15, Khatha No. 15/5, in part of Sy. No. 15/5, situated at Thalaghattapura Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, measuring East to West 60 feet and North to South 40 feet each in all total measuring 4,800 sq. feet, together with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on:

East by : Site No.18 &19, **West by :** Road, **North by :** Site No. 16, **South by :** Site No.13 and 14.

P. P. JAYAKUMARA, ADVOCATE,
No.101, First Floor, Kurubara Sanga Building,
Kalidasa Road, Gandhinagar,
Bangalore-560009. Mobile No: 9740422119.

TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

Registered Address: 11th Floor, Tower A, Peninsula Business Park, Ganpatrao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai – 400013.
Branch Address: No 82/1, Ground Floor, Krishna Towers, Richmond Road, Bengaluru 560025.

CORRIGENDUM

Please refer to our

Chilika, the largest brackish water lake in Asia, is both shrinking and expanding at an alarmingly high rate, posing a serious threat to its rich and unique biodiversity. The lagoon has experienced a remarkably high erosion rate of 19.87 metre per year

Amminiamma, a native of Mukkulam, stands at the place where her house existed till it was washed away in the floods recently| EXPRESS

As toll rises to 42, Kerala CM assures kin of support

Six more yet to be traced; 3,851 families in relief camps across state

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@T'Puram

THE death toll in rain-related calamities in the state since October 12 has risen to 42 while six other persons are still untraced, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said on Wednesday. Quoting a report from the Met Department, the CM also warned that widespread rain accompanied by thunderstorm is likely in the state till October 24 due to a cyclonic circulation near the south Tamil Nadu coast.

Of the 42 deaths, 19 occurred due to landslides. While the bodies of 12 landslide victims in Kottayam have been recovered, another seven bodies were traced in Idukki. Pinarayi said 3,851 families are housed in 304 relief camps across the state.

As per the revised forecast of the Met Department, orange alert has been issued for Thursday in Pathanamthitta, Kottayam and Idukki and yellow alert in Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Ernakulam, Thrissur and Malappuram, Pinarayi said.

'Will provide enough aid to affected'

Earlier in the day, Pinarayi expressed grief over the deaths in the state due to rain-related calamities. He assured the assembly that the government's care for those affected would be reflected in the relief measures and restoration of their livelihood of affected families. The chief minister said the tragedy was unbearable not only for the victims' families but also for the entire state. He said the government will stand firmly with the families of the victims.

"According to the Met Department's radar image, there is likelihood of rain in the hilly areas of Kannur, Malappuram, Kozhikode and Thrissur districts and also in Thiruvannathapuram," Pinarayi said. He added that people in hilly and disaster-prone areas should exercise utmost caution.

The CM said departments have been directed to hasten the disbursal of compensation to the next of kin of those killed. Officials have also been instructed to expedite the preparation of estimates of damaged houses, roads and bridges.

Pinarayi said special care needs to be taken to prevent spread of Covid in relief camps.

Special permission has been given to conduct antigen tests in camps to screen for Covid. The services of health workers will be ensured in relief camps, he said.

Owing to the continued rain, care should be taken to check the epidemics breaking out in relief camps. The Water Resources Department has agreed to provide clean drinking water in relief camps. Cleaning of wells and works to restore power supply should also be given priority, the CM said.

Southwest monsoon to retreat on October 26

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kochi

THE Southwest monsoon will withdraw from the state on October 26, the IMD said in a release on Wednesday. Subsequently, the Northeast Monsoon will set in on October 26.

The Southwest monsoon normally withdraws from the state on September 30. However, the withdrawal has been delayed by the influence of the two cyclonic circulations in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

The Northeast Monsoon extends from October 1 to December 31 and normally delivers 491.6 mm rainfall. The state receives an average rainfall of 22.4 mm during the winter season, which starts on January 1 and ends on February 28. The pre-monsoon period which extends from March 1 to May 31 normally brings 361.5 mm rainfall.

This year, the monsoon current hit the Kerala coast on June 3. Though the state received widespread rainfall, the Southwest monsoon showed a 16 per cent deficit as on September 30. The state received 1,718.8 mm rainfall during the season as against the normal rainfall of 2,049.2 mm. Wayanad recorded the highest deficit of -32 per cent receiving 1,725.5 mm rainfall as against the normal rainfall of 2,525.5 mm. The deficit was over 20 per cent in Thrissur, Malappuram, Palakkad and Kannur districts.

KERALA ANNUAL RAINFALL 2020

Southwest Monsoon (Jun 1 - Sept 30)	2,924.7
Northeast Monsoon (Oct 1 - Dec 31)	2,049.2
Pre-monsoon (Mar 1 - May 31)	491.6
	361.5

ACTUAL RAINFALL 2021

Southwest Monsoon	
Oct 1 - Oct 20	1,718.8
	455.1

*FIGURES IN MM

For trafficked B'deshi women, returning home not a real option

BALA CHAUHAN @ Bengaluru

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

THE narrative of people caught in the web of human trafficking is a sordid saga of exploitation of the vulnerable, who beg, borrow and sell whatever little they have on false assurances of dream merchants, that a better life awaits in an alien land. They are smuggled across international borders without documents, with the connivance of traffickers, whose network spans countries. The illegal immigrants, once caught in these tentacles, most often succumb to a life they had never wilfully opted for.

"Often, by the time a trafficked woman is identified by law enforcement agencies, she is exploited and deeply absorbed in the flesh trade," said Talaash Association founder Seema Sharma Diwan. 'Talaash', a Bengaluru-based national human rights non-profit organisation, has assisted City police in verifying the nationality of 11 Bangladeshis who were arrested for the gangrape of their compatriot. Following this case, the rescue of 10 illegal women immigrants from Bangladesh in June this year, exposed the chinks in the system, which traffickers use to exploit their victims.

The 10 alleged victims of trafficking -- all women -- were illegally brought to India from Bangladesh by the accused and exploited for flesh trade. They were rescued from different parts of the city, and are lodged in a government home. "They will be repatriated after due legal procedure," said Diwan. Between 2014 and 2019, Talaash helped police repatriate 300 illegal Bangladeshis from Bengaluru city, Bengaluru Rural, Belagavi and Vijayapura.

"Since last year, 36 illegal immigrants have been repatriated to Bangladesh and 16 are in the process of being repatriated," she said. Diwan said that according to the victims' statement, a majority had fallen in the trap of an agent back home, who promises employment in malls, salons, shops etc. "They crossed the Indo-Bangladesh border without documents. The network of traffickers includes agents, who make Aadhaar cards for illegal immigrants. The women are then moved from state to state by the traffickers to showcase them as new products to their clients. Some victims, who were rescued by police, wanted to return to their families. There are many others who don't want to get repatriated, largely because of socio-economic reasons," said Diwan.

She added that it is not just women who are trafficked. "Males are trafficked and paid to keep a watch on trafficked women, and provide logistical help. Illegal immigrants from Bangladesh get mixed up in Indian society mainly because they pass off as natives of West Bengal. They live as couples in apartments, and women are made to entertain clients surreptitiously," she added. "Women send money home, and looking at the economic improvement of their families, more women in their villages fall prey to traffickers. They don't know what lies ahead," she added.

Diwan said that verification and proper assessment of illegal immigrants is important to establish if they are trafficked persons. "There are cases where victims are been found to be traffickers, and genuine victims of trafficking are held as illegal immigrants," said Diwan.

96 from K'taka stranded in U'khand, 4 untraced

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE flood situation in Uttarakhand has not just affected the citizens and administration there, but also worried people of Karnataka. In all, 96 people from Karnataka are stranded in the hill state, and of them, there has been no contact with three persons from Bengaluru. Uttarakhand and Karnataka governments have been trying, but not able to reach them.

Manoj Rajan, Director, Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC), told The New Indian Express that of the 96 from the state, 92 have been traced, brought to base camps and are safe. Three are stranded in Badrinath and the administration is unable to get in touch with them because of poor connectivity. But officials have been told that they are safe. One other person, who is yet to be contacted, is a Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) jawan and the SSB control room has been informed about him.

A jawan rescues a child stranded at Tanakpur, Uttarakhand | EXPRESS

KSNDMC officials said that they received 10-15 calls from people asking about the welfare of their relatives stranded in Uttarakhand. The calls were from Bengaluru, Vijayapura, Udupi and other parts of North Karnataka.

Secretary, Revenue Department, Tushar Girinath, said that the three stranded in Badrinath are from Bengaluru and all efforts are being made to bring them to the base. "The situation in Uttarakhand is not as bad as it was last time. Once the situation improves, all those from Karnataka will be brought by road to nearest railway stations or airports," he added.

Contractor confesses to killing Odisha teacher

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bhubaneswar

EVEN as the identity of the mortal remains dug out of an under construction stadium at Mahaling in Kalahandi district is yet to be confirmed, the key accused contractor Gobinda Sahu has reportedly confessed before police to have killed the teacher Mamita Meher and disposed of her body there.

Gobinda had carried out the murder in a pre-planned manner as Mamita had come to know of his extra-marital affair and threatened to expose him, the police added.

Giving details of the incident to the media on Wednesday, DIG (Northern Range) Deepak Kumar said that Balangir police visited Kalahandi district and examined the CCTV footage of various places to ascertain the movement of the victim and the prime accused.

"Statements, material, scientific and technical evidence along with the confession of Gobinda Sahu revealed that it was a pre-planned murder. He killed Mamita either by smothering or strangulating her inside his car on October 8 when they were returning from Bhawanipatna to Kegaon," said the DIG.

He said that Mamita had come to know about an extra-marital affair of Gobinda and threatened to expose him due to which he held a grudge against her. "After killing her, the accused carried the body in his car to Mahaling Stadium on October 8 night. He set the victim's body on fire using cardboards and tyres in a freshly dug pit and covered it the next morning," the DIG said.

The driver of the prime accused has been detained by Balangir police and his involvement is being examined.

The Uppar stream in Thoothukudi

TN to look into plaints against petro project

S GODSON WISELY DASS
@Thoothukudi

THE Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (Refinery Division), in an order dated October 6, has directed Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu to take appropriate action on complaints against ongoing land acquisition at Allikulam and surrounding villages in Thoothukudi for a private petroleum refinery project.

Over 9,521 people from seven habitats live about 1 km away from the proposed site, and over 15,000 residents live in Pudukkottai, about 10 km from the petroleum refinery project. Besides, the Thoothukudi airport is only about 4.2 km away from the project site. The Uppar river that flows through Umarikottai, Kombadi, Allikulam, and other areas, is also fed by many jungle streams that meander through the project site.

Earlier, in May 2020, the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) of the Union Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC), during its 235th meeting, had returned the SIPCOT's proposal to establish the project in Therku Veerapandiyapuram, citing pollution near residential areas.

74% yet to take second dose in TN

ENS @ Chennai

ONLY 26 per cent of the eligible population in Tamil Nadu have been administered the second dose of Covid-19 vaccine, as per the vaccination status on CoWIN portal at 6 pm on Wednesday. With this, the State falls behind the national average (29 per cent) and all other South Indian states -- Andhra Pradesh (36 per cent), Karnataka and Kerala (33 per cent each), and Telangana (28 per cent).

The data has given rise to concern among officials in the State even as Tamil Nadu prioritises those who are due for the second dose during the sixth mega vaccination camp, to be held on Saturday. According to officials, vaccine hesitancy and a feeling that one dose is safe are the reasons behind the issue.

The data also reveals that 73 per cent people have taken the first dose in the State, compared to the national average stands at 70 per cent.

WASTED BLOSSOMS

With no one to buy flowers despite low prices, traders dump their produce at Gudimalkapur market in Hyderabad on Wednesday | VINAY MADAPU

BOARD PROPOSES SOFT LOANS TO PROMOTE NEW VARIETY OF COFFEE

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

TO boost coffee economy, help farmers and consumers, the Board has decided to promote a new variety of brew. To ease farmers into adopting the new variety of Chandragiri coffee, the board has asked the state and central government to provide planters a soft loan with lower interest rates and moratoriums.

KG Jagadeesh, CEO and Secretary of the Coffee Board, told The New Indian Express, "This new variety of cuppa yields more, and has a good cupping quality. The beans are bold and has a lot of resistance to leaf pests. The taste and quality of this variety is also good, but its acceptability among farmers is only 10 per cent. Since getting a subsidy is difficult, the board has asked the government to offer them soft loan schemes. Farmer will not clear their standing crop and sow fresh saplings and wait for five years, without any returns. This issue needs to be addressed to have a better market."

The Board is not just working on promoting Chandragiri in Karnataka and southern states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala, but to other Indian states like Odisha. Jagadeesh said that the aim is to increase productivity, so that the exports and domestic sales also increase. The Board officials pointed out that in Karnataka and southern regions, the most grown variety is Cauvery and Arabica, but assessment of samples have shown that Chandragiri is better.

According to the Board's statistics, the yield has been good at 1,037 kg per hectare of Arabica and Robusta in Karnataka in the year 2020-21.

Inflows could rise near Hoggenakkal

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

WITH the Meteorological Department predicting a heavy rainfall for the next couple of days in South Karnataka, including Mandya, Mysuru and Chamarajanagar districts and parts of Ramanagara district, the inflows to Cauvery river could increase near Hoggenakkal to meet Tamil Nadu's requirements. Irrigation officials, however, felt that the KRS Dam may not reach its capacity level of 124.8 ft this season as monsoon has already come to an end in the Cauvery basin.

KRS Superintendent Engineer Vijaykuamr said that inflows into the dam that was 14,000 cusecs on Tuesday came down to 8,097 cusecs on Wednesday and the outflow was 6,613 cusecs. The dam level was at 120.05 ft. He said they had stopped the discharge to irrigation canals for 10 days as there were good rains in the catchment areas.

'Nod needed to develop hamlets'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

WHEN The New Indian Express contacted Assistant Commissioner Dr HL Nagaraj, he said since the hamlets fall in the national park region, the forest department has to give clearance for any development work, including laying of roads, in the area.

Kudremukh National Park Range Forest Officer Harish said that all developmental activities are prohibited as the two hamlets are in the fringes of the protected area. He added that an exception can be made only by the Wildlife Board.

Residents said officials have not heeded to their requests.

EXPRESS READ

Minor dies in pillar collapse

Adilabad: A seven-year-old child died and another minor sustained injuries after a cement pillar came crashing down on them at Kumrambheem-Asifabad district headquarters on Wednesday. The deceased has been identified as Kishore.

EDITORIAL

"It's important to remember that hunger doesn't always happen because of natural disasters, which is a mental model that most of us fall back upon; it is often the result of things that we do to each other deliberately

Ricardo Salvador

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

HASINA MUST PUT AN END TO VIOLENCE BY PRO-PAK ELEMENTS

The recent violence in Bangladesh against the single-largest minority community—the Hindus, 10% of the population now—is worrisome. The killings, arson and rioting have their own history specific to that country, emerging since 2013, if you overlook the obvious mirror image. The patterns are identical: A social media post alleging insult to the majority faith goes viral, and that brings the entire minority population, already perpetually vulnerable, in the direct line of fire. On that side of the border, it's the desecration of the Quran that matters (we have a wider choice of flavours). Sheikh Hasina's regime, despite its avowal of secularism, has obviously not been able to bottle the genie of fundamentalism. Indeed, it suits the narrative of organisations such as the Jamaat-e-Islami to see the India-friendly Hasina government faltering on this front, never mind the economic robustness it has achieved. The subcontinent has seen this time and again—the economy becomes the first and biggest casualty during communal strife. We have all seen how social media becomes a tool in the hands of evil.

In Bangladesh's case, strife is being fanned by pro-Pakistan forces, drawing new inspiration from the re-emergence of the Taliban in Afghanistan. Civil and human rights voices—naturally including Hindu groups—have held protests in Dhaka, but India has been calibrated in its response. Outside of India's own politics, we see the Hasina government as an ally—and indeed, it has cracked down on the arsonists, with about 400 arrests. But to stop the pot from boiling, the cases need to be brought to their logical conclusion. The pattern, as we said, is depressingly identical. Communal forces target not just the minorities, but also artists, writers, bloggers and political opponents (here it's the Awami League and the Left). Dhaka must walk the talk if it has to stay on the path of progress and development, and be true to the secular linguistic idea on which it was formed. So must Delhi.

VICIOUS POLITICAL CYCLE IN ANDHRA

Political temperature shot up in Andhra Pradesh after the main opposition TDP's headquarters and the residence of its spokesperson were attacked on Tuesday by YSRC supporters. The vandalism was shocking since no such attack had taken place on a party's main office in recent memory in the state. In hindsight, it was perhaps waiting to happen. Ever since the YSRC came to power in 2019, the war of words between the TDP and the ruling party has been intensifying and touching a new low with alarming frequency.

The trigger for the assault on the TDP office and its spokesman's house was the uncharitable and abusive language used by the latter against YSRC chief and Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy. The language was not only provocative but also indecent. It cannot, however, be an excuse for violence. No side appears to realise that this is a slippery slope. The ruling party has been pointing fingers at the opposition leaders for acting as agent provocateurs while the TDP leaders are accusing the government of seeking to terrorise political opponents. Not that sharp political rhetoric, allegations and even political violence is new to the state. What is different now is that unsavoury political discourse has become the norm rather than the exception. Political violence could well become regular too. The main reason for this is the bitter rivalry between the ruling and opposition parties. What ought to be a normal political rivalry in a healthy democracy has transformed into something personal between the leaders of the two sides. It is high time the leaders introspect and rein in their colleagues and cadre. Else, there is a possibility of the state going back several decades, when violence was a part and parcel of politics.

The latest episode also highlights the difficult job of the police. Though no one was seriously injured, the police drew flak for failing to thwart the attacks. It is unfortunate that the department is faced with this situation at a time when it is observing the Police Commemoration Day. Hundreds of police personnel died in harness during the first and second Covid waves and thousands were affected. Yes, the police and intelligence failure is glaring but what about politicians?

The Global Hunger Index needs to be challenged for many reasons including reliance on outdated data, flawed methodology and declining credibility of global institutions

ANOTHER INDEX OF DOUBTFUL AUTHENTICITY

A SURYA PRAKASH

Former chairman of Prasar Bharati and Scholar, Democracy Studies

AMIT BANDRE

The conclusions of the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2021, which has downgraded India and even placed it below Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and other South Asian countries, need to be challenged for a variety of reasons including reliance on outdated data, flawed methodology and the declining credibility of global institutions.

The report, which seeks to track hunger at the global and regional levels, is based on four indicators: undernourishment, child wasting (low weight for height), child stunting (low height for their age) and child mortality.

The report places India at 101 among 116 countries and its standing is much lower than several other South Asian countries. It has a score of 27.5. On the other hand, there are 18 nations with a score less than 5 (the lower the score, the better the country is supposed to have performed). While India, which was ranked 94 in 2020, has dropped to 101, Sri Lanka (65), Bangladesh (76), Nepal (76) and Pakistan (92) have fared much better.

The GHI needs to be questioned for the following reasons: For the indicators 'prevalence of wasting in children under five years' and 'prevalence of stunting in children under five years', the findings pertain to the official data available for the period 2016-18. For good or for worse, they do not reflect the ground situation of 2021.

Further, the methodology used by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), whose data is relied upon by the GHI, is questionable as it is based on an opinion poll conducted telephonically by Gallup. Further, the questions asked by the pollster were related to the status of employment during Covid-19, loss of job or business or loss of earnings. While the government and other agencies successfully mounted a massive campaign to ensure essential food supplies to the people during the pandemic, the respondents were never asked whether they received food support. Equally absurd is the fact that while the scientific analysis of undernourishment would require measurement of weight and height, the GHI relied on a Gallup poll based on pure telephonic estimates.

Here are some other issues that arise from the GHI rankings. In the first 18 countries in the GHI rankings, most were in the less than 5 or 5.5 range in the year 2000 and have retained their position. However, China, whose score was 13.3 in 2000, has made a spectacular improvement—its score is now less than 5. Is this based on sound data? This question needs to be raised in light of the strange happenings in the WHO ever since China manoeuvred to get the candidate it supported elected as its Secretary-General.

Further, from where does GHI source its data for the four indicators? The report says data comes from various UN and other multilateral agencies like the WHO, World Bank, UNICEF, FAO and from "authors' estimates".

Why is the involvement of so many UN agencies and the WHO in the making of this report worthy of notice? The data provided by China or collected by the UN agencies from Beijing and adopted by GHI needs to be examined with a fine-tooth comb. This is in light of the shocking scandal in the World Bank when senior officials of the bank ensured that the data from China for Ease of Doing Business were fudged in order to improve its rating.

> While analysis of undernourishment would require measurement of weight and height, the GHI relied on a poll based on telephonic estimates. ... Further, China's rise in the rankings is suspicious due to what happened in the World Bank

This scandal should put India on full alert in regard to every report or evaluation that emanates from UN agencies. Following the scandal, which came to light after an independent audit, the World Bank discontinued the rankings. The audit showed gross interference in the rankings by World Bank bosses including its President and Chief Executive Officer. They ordered manipulation of data to reverse China's fall from 78 to 85 in the rankings.

Also disturbing are details about the manner in which China stifled a proper investigation into the origin of the Covid-19 virus in Wuhan and the obvious unwillingness of the Director-General to call out Beijing for its non-cooperation. Given these developments, how reliable is the data collected by the WHO and used by those who finalised the GHI rankings?

The GHI report, which seeks to run down India, is in line with some other global institutions that have been pooh-poohing well-entrenched democratic traditions in the country. When one sees the flaws in the methodology adopted by the agencies that prepared the GHI report, we are reminded of the absurdities that were obvious in the Press Freedom Index prepared by the Paris-based Reporters Without Borders (RSF) and the Democracy Report 2020 produced by the Swedish agency V-Dem.

The RSF report claimed that there was better press freedom in many theocratic nations and countries devoid of the basic fundamentals of democracy than in India. Maldives, where only Muslims can be citizens and where the Sharia law is supreme, is supposedly a better "democracy" and a nation with better press freedom than India. There are dozens of such examples in these reports, which clearly establish that they are agenda-driven.

Further, ever since China enhanced its funding for the UN, it is trying to arm-twist the world body and its agencies. Despite India's standing in vaccine production, the WHO's non-certification of India's indigenous Covaxin, which has been administered to 112 million citizens and is seen to be efficacious, is a case in point. This is causing endless hardship to lakhs of Indians who need to travel abroad for personal or professional reasons. At whose behest is the WHO dragging its feet?

The time has therefore come to call out the so-called "global" reports and scrutinise the work of world bodies.

(suryamedia@gmail.com)

SHOULD ALL OUR CHILDREN BE COVID JABBED NOW?

DR CHANDRAKANT LAHARIYA

Physician-epidemiologist, and public policy and health systems expert

In India, Zydus Cadila's plasmid DNA vaccine for Covid, ZyCoV-D, was given Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA) for 12–17 age group (as well as adults) in August 2021. The indigenously developed vaccine became India's first jab to be licensed for children. Then, on October 12, the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) of the Central Drug Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) recommended the approval of Bharat Biotech's Covaxin for those aged 2 to 17. As the next step, it has to be cleared by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI). In addition, two other vaccines—Covovax (2-17 age group; Serum Institute of India) and Corbevax (5-17 age group; Biological E Ltd)—are undergoing clinical trials in children.

With the SEC giving clearance to Covaxin and the EUA being granted for ZyCoV-D, there was a lot of excitement and interest amongst parents. However, after close to two months, ZyCoV-D is yet to be rolled out for any of the age groups. The moot point here is: Do children really need Covid-19 vaccines? Also, what is the purpose of licensing a vaccine if it does not mean starting the inoculation? Let's dive into both these issues.

SARS-CoV-2 infections occur in all age groups and therefore, the vaccines' researchers and manufacturers conducting clinical trials on children is understandable. Then, once the trials are completed, the findings and the data are submitted to the regulatory authorities—in India the DCGI—for approval. For vaccines before the pandemic, the approval would mean that it is available in the market. However, in case of Covid-19 vaccines, since it has been an expedited process of EUA with limited and at times no follow-up data, the jabs are unavailable. So, the EUA is a process completely delinked from the programmatic roll-out of vaccines.

The decision on whether (or not), when and who should be administered the Covid-19 vaccines in India under the government programme is recommended by the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) and needs to be endorsed by the National Expert Group on Covid-19 Vaccination (NEGVAC). One can recall that even after the EUA of two Covid-19 vaccines for adults (18 years onwards) by the DCGI in January 2021, the inoculation drives did not start immediately. The vaccines were rolled out as per the recommendations of NTAGI and NEGVAC in a phased manner—first the health staff and the frontline workers were given the jabs, then the elderly and those between 45 and 59 with comorbidities and so on.

How does the NTAGI arrive on recommendations on whether to vaccinate a specific age group? There are globally agreed-upon criteria and it has been detailed in India's National Vaccine Policy of 2011. In the context of Covid-19 jabs for children, two considerations, namely, the risk-benefit analysis of vaccination and optimising the available supply (prioritisation) are very relevant.

The currently available vaccines in India are not proven to prevent the transmission but reduce the risk of serious illness and death. The epidemiological evidence from the last 18 months of the pandemic indicate that children do get infected at a rate nearly similar to that of adults (as also reported in the fourth nationwide sero survey in India). However, the risk of moderate to severe infection is low. Hence, the benefit of vaccinating children is lower than inoculating adults. Even though the vaccines have been given EUA after examining their safety profile through clinical trials, the ones done on children in India had been and are being done on 500 to 1,500 kids only. Such sample size is sufficient to provide an indication on the safety in context of common adverse events and immunogenicity of vaccines but falls short in identifying any such event that may occur to one in more than 1,500 vaccinees.

> It is scientifically known that the rate of vaccine adverse events in general and Covid jabs in particular are inversely proportional to age. A few rare adverse events such as viral myocarditis and blood clots are more common among the young. Therefore, the risk in vaccination is greater for children than adults

It is scientifically known that the rate of vaccine adverse events in general and Covid jabs in particular are inversely proportional to age. A few rare adverse events such as viral myocarditis (with mRNA-based vaccines) and blood clots (with viral vectored vaccines) are more common among the younger age groups. Therefore, the risk in Covid-19 vaccination is greater for children than adults. For instance, the clinical trial of Oxford/AstraZeneca Vaccine (AZD1222) in those aged between 5 and 17 had to be halted due to rare blood clot events in trial participants and is yet to resume. This vaccine is being administered to millions of adults in many countries. In short, the benefit of Covid-19 vaccination in children is lower and the risk is greater (than the adults). It is because of this risk-benefit analysis that only a few countries have started vaccinating children and in spite of having access to licensed vaccines and sufficient supply, have prioritised vaccination of high-risk subgroups in children.

Both ZyCoV-D and Covaxin have not been used in children outside the clinical trials. Therefore, it will be logical that India also prioritises high-risk children. A decision on vaccinating healthy children should be deferred until complete data from the trials is available. Also, data from additional vaccine adverse events of high-risk children, which will accrue over a period of time, should be factored in. Hence, Covid-19 vaccination of kids should not be influenced by political expediency or any external urgency and has to be exclusively guided by and based upon calm assessment of the data, evidence and science.

(Dr Lahariya is the co-author of 'Till We Win: India's Fight Against The Covid-19 Pandemic')
(c.lahariya@gmail.com)
(Tweets @DrLahariya)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Arrest price rise

The rising prices of vegetables, fruits and other essential items are chiefly due to the increase in fuel costs (*Kitchen staple prices soar across the South*, Oct 20). Adding to the woes, fields in some states have been inundated due to heavy rains. It is time both the Centre and states join hands and evolve a strategy to arrest the price rise so that there is some relief for the *aam aadmi*.

KR Srinivasan, Secunderabad

Priyanka decision welcome

This is with reference to *40% Congress ticket quota for women in UP* (Oct 20). Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's strategy is a welcome step. Priyanka is now unambiguously the face of the party in UP. Though her detention by the UP police and the Varanasi rally have generated a great deal of buzz in the media, the party is not being seen as a major player in the state yet.

P Victor Selvaraj, Palayamkottai

Avoiding lifestyle diseases

The article *Why migration is a natural health experiment* (Oct 20) was very useful. We have been brainwashed to believe that many diseases arise only due to genetic reasons. The column shows how environmental factors too matter. And one way to avoid lifestyle diseases is by regular physical exercise.

C Sivakumar, email

Hindi imposition

That a Zomato agent chided a customer for not knowing Hindi is very unfortunate. DMK MP Kanimozhi faced a similar situation in the Chennai airport some time ago. I have had the experience of the Videocon customer care service giving instructions in Hindi and so had to instead rush to the local agent personally to get the defects in transmission rectified.

Dr M Haneef, Kottayam

Escape from agony?

The shocking news of a man being killed by his wife in Kerala has underlying issues. The suffering of the old man started 15 years ago. The wife was a witness and also suffered with him. She was probably well aware that she was waging a losing battle and her extreme step might have been to end his agony. The question of euthanasia of terminally ill patients under medical supervision has to be seriously pondered over.

Krishnakumar G, Ernakulam

Sanskrit under Cholas

This is with reference to the article *Patronisation of an academic language by Cholas* (Oct 20). The article throws light on our countries' varied languages. These languages help us keep in touch with the roots. The epigraphic records help students understand the status that Sanskrit as an academic language enjoyed under the Chola monarchs.

Abraham Clinton, Thiruvananthapuram

Livelihoods hit by eviction

As you have rightly pointed out in the editorial *When families are abruptly evicted with no notice* (Oct 20), it is sad that many living on the pavements in Chennai for decades have been suddenly evicted by the civic authorities without proper alternative arrangements. Their livelihoods will be hit. Most slum dwellers work as service providers. So, while resettling them, it should be seen that they are put up near their workplaces.

S Nallasivan, Tirunelveli

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Chairman of the Board: **Manoj Kumar Sonthalia** Editor: **G S Vasu**

Resident Editor (Karnataka) : **Santwana Bhattacharya*** Published by **R K Jhunjhunwala** on behalf of Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited, at No. 1, Queen's Road, Bengaluru - 560 001 and printed by him at Express Press, Plot No. 2A, Bommasandra Industrial Area, 4th Phase, Survey No. 46, Part Yarandahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk. Bengaluru - 560 099. **Bengaluru.** Vol. 57, No. 249 RNI Reg. No. 3457/1960. Phone: 080-22866893. * Responsible for selection of News under the PRB Act. **Copyright:** Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited.

TWEETS OF THE DAY

Prashant Bhushan @pbhushan1
No drugs found in the possession of Aryan Khan. In any case, alleged offence is punishable with max 1 yr jail. Yet no bail to him even after two weeks!

Subramanian Swamy @Swamy39
Why is BJP govt not protesting on the issue of developing genocide of Hindus in Bangladesh? Are we afraid of BD? Will we be next afraid of Maldives?

Mehbooba Mufti @MehboobaMufti
False & unsavoury utterances of Satya Pal Malik about me being a beneficiary of Roshini Act is mischievous. My legal team is preparing to sue him

Reservation for women a non-starter in Congress

Almost 23 years after Sonia's announcement that 33% of posts in party will be set aside for women, this has not been implemented

FIGURES OF DISPARITY

CWC members 19
WOMEN 2

Permanent invitees 24
WOMEN 2

Special invitees 9
WOMAN 1

AICC office bearers 100
WOMEN 6

Central Election Authority members 5
WOMAN 1

Central Election Committee members 10
WOMEN 3

Fear of losing

There are leaders in the party who fear they might lose prominence if positions are reserved for women. According to insiders, this might be a reason why reserving 33% of party posts has not materealised.

RICHA SHARMA @New Delhi

CONGRESS UP in-charge Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's decision to reserve 40 per cent of party tickets for women candidates in state grabbed eyeballs. However, the party has failed to implement a similar decision by Congress chief Sonia Gandhi in 1998 to reserve 33 per cent of all party posts for women.

Over two decades down the line, the 19-member Congress Working Committee has only two women — Ambika Soni and Priyanka. There are two women — Meira Kumar and Rajni Patil — in the list of 24 members as permanent invitees. Netta D'souza is the only woman among nine special invites.

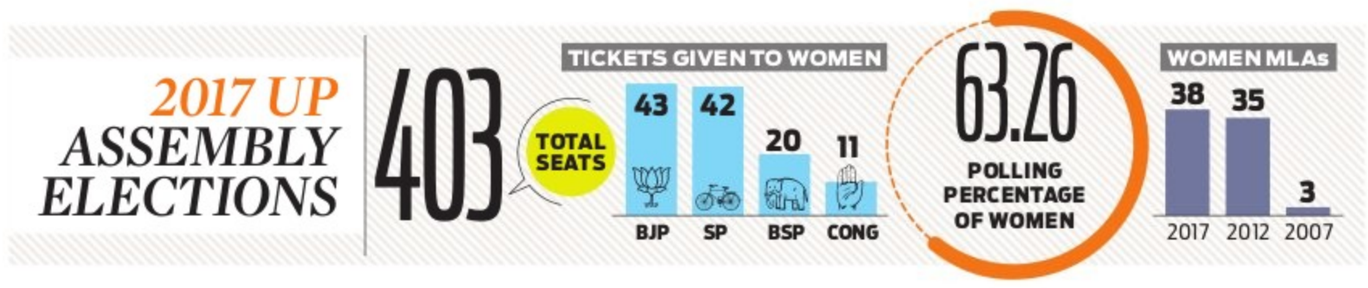
Among the 100 AICC officer bearers — general secretaries, in-charges, secretaries and joint secretaries — there are only six women. Besides Priyanka and Patil, others are Deepika Pandey Singh (secretary, Uttarakhand), Dr Prabha Kishore Taviad (All India Mahila Congress), Ranjeet Ranjan (secretary, Himachal Pradesh) and Sonal Patel (secretary, Maharashtra). The five-member Central Election Authority has Tamil Nadu MP S Jothimani. The 10-member Central Election Committee has three — Ambika Soni, Mohsina Kidwai and Girija Vyas.

After Sonia took over as Congress president in 1998, she announced 33 per cent reservation for women in CWC, AICC office bearers, state Congress committees and also at the district and block levels.

A resolution to this regard was passed at the Pachmarhi brainstorming session of the party in 1998 that talked about '33 per cent reservation for women at all levels' and 'respectful representation for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.' This is yet to be implemented even though the party's reins remained with Sonia but for two years from December 2017 to May 2019, when Rahul Gandhi was the chief.

"Some were upset about the decision with the apprehension of losing party positions to accommodate women leaders. But nothing much has happened since 1998 and it is yet to be implemented in the party," said a senior leader, who attended the Pachmarhi session.

Both Sonia and Rahul have been pushing for a 33 per cent reservation for women in Lok Sabha. The party's 2019 election manifesto talked about one-third reservation for women in government sector to increase representation.



Experts not sure 40% move will pay dividends

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @New Delhi

WILL reserving 40% of party tickets for women candidates in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections help Congress improve its electoral strength? Experts this newspaper spoke to felt this could become an example for other parties, but may not result in immediate gains for the party in UP.

"It's too late to expect instant results in UP polls. There is no magic which can help Congress reap immediate benefits," said Sanjay Kumar, acclaimed political analyst and psephologist associated with The Centre for the Study of Developing Societies.

Dr Anjana Kumari, political researcher with the Department of Political Science under Delhi University, opined: "Congress's effort to woo women voters in UP seems to be a futile exercise as the gender issue is not at the fore here. The party has portrayed itself as gender-friendly by making this announcement. But it does not touch burning issues like police atrocities against SCs, minorities and other weaker sections."

According to her research in the wake of the last three UP Assembly elections, issues like deteriorating economic condition of the middle class and unemployment are likely to dominate the psyches of electorates in UP.

Ajit K Jha, Oxford-trained UP elections expert, said merely this announcement would not suffice for Congress in order to return to power. "This announcement is a wonderful first step in the direction of women empowerment and increasing female representation in the UP Assembly. But Congress has very little support as was evident in 2014, 2017 and 2019," Jha said.

"The only winning formula for the opposition in UP is an across the board alliance of Congress, SP, BSP and RLD. Unless such a pre-poll secular alliance is formed, it will be advantage BJP," added Jha, who thinks Congress should bring in an OBC face as a strategy.

But Supriya Satyam, senior political analyst in Delhi, said many parties have in the past tried to woo women voters with similar experiments and in some states these have succeeded. But is some states they have not. "In UP, only an announcement of 40% tickets reserved for women cannot be enough," she opined.

Anita Kumari, researcher on participation of women in Indian politics after Independence, differed. "This Congress move is a historic one in the politics of country. It may partially succeed in UP, also because of the fact that similar moves by TMC in Bengal in recent elections and the JD-U in local bodies elections in Bihar had succeeded."

Congress emulating us: TMC

Kolkata: Trinamool Congress on Wednesday mocked Congress over its decision to field 40% women candidates in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections. It said that hopefully, the move to 'emulate' the ruling party in West Bengal is not mere 'tokenism'. "Under the leadership of @MamataOfficial, AITC has shown the way to ensure increased participation of women in politics in this country. We're the first party to give 40 per cent seats to women in LS elections!" the Trinamool Congress said in a tweeted statement.

BJP's 50% 'formula' in MP bypolls

Bhopal: BJP has fielded 50% women candidates in the upcoming bypolls to four seats in Madhya Pradesh, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said. By-elections to three Assembly seats — Jobat (Alirajpur), Raigaon (Satna), Prithvirpur (Niwari) — and Khandwa Lok Sabha constituency are scheduled on October 30. "In Madhya Pradesh we have fielded 50% women candidates in the four seats. Our sisters are contesting in two seats," Chouhan said. The women candidates are Sulochana Rawat (Jobat) and Pratima Bagri (Raigaon).

ANTIBIOTIC USE

Panel nudges med colleges to formulate guidelines

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

PROMPTED by the Union health ministry, the medical education regulator has asked all medical colleges and hospitals to frame guidelines for antibiotic uses amid concerns about growing antimicrobial resistance.

In a letter issued to institutions under it, the National Medical Commission, citing a communiqué by Union health secretary Rajesh Bhushan, has said that indiscriminate use of antimicrobial and development of AMR may be leading to increased incidences of infections and avoidable morbidity and mortality.

The commission has also nudged the medical colleges to activate Hospital Infection Control Committee and Antimicrobial Stewardship Committees.

AMR is defined as the capacity of the pathogens such as fungi, parasites, bacteria, to evolve and stop responding to medicines meant to kill them.

"All hospitals and medical colleges should increase the activity of both the committees and prepare guidelines for antibiotic use in their hospitals depending on prevalent organisms and antimicrobial sensitivity," says the letter.

The communiqué, sent by Bhushan to the NMC last week meanwhile also asked the regulator to amend the current medicine syllabus with clear norms on when not to prescribe antibiotics for patients as this category of drugs is often abused by physicians.

All clinical subjects in nursing and medical education must include practical education and evaluation on AMR, judicious use of antimicrobials, antimicrobial stewardship and infection prevention and control, he had emphasised.

HEAT-RELATED DEATHS HIGH IN INDIA AND BRAZIL: STUDY

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@New Delhi

INDIA is one of the five countries with the highest heat wave exposure of vulnerable populations over the past five years. Along with Brazil, India reported the highest heat related mortality in the world, said the 2021 report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change

The newest report marked code red for a healthy future outlining the growing risks to health and climate. These risks exacerbate the health hazards already faced by many, particularly in communities exposed to food and water insecurity, heatwaves and infectious diseases.

Heat-related mortality for people older than 65 years increased throughout the study, reaching a record high of almost 3,45,000 deaths in 2019 -- 80.6 per cent higher than in the 2000-05 average. Between 2018 and 2019, India and Brazil had the biggest absolute increase in heat-related mortality.

In 2020, adults over 65 were affected by 3.1 billion more days of heatwave exposure than in the 1986-2005 baseline average. Chinese, Indian, American, Japanese, and Indonesian senior citizens were the most affected, said the report released late Wednesday.

"In a rising trend since at least 1990, 295 billion hours of potential work was lost across the globe in 2020 due to heat exposure-the equivalent to 88 work hours per employed person. Pakistan, Bangladesh, and India had the greatest losses among this group (2.5-3 times the world average and the equivalent to 216-261 hours lost per employed person in 2020," it said.

Among the key findings, the report said that in 2020, up to 19 per cent of the global land surface was affected by extreme drought in any given month, a value that had not exceeded 13 per cent between 1950 and 1999.

"The five years with the most areas affected by extreme drought have all occurred since 2015," it said.

Rahul's Gujarat meet on Friday

New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will on Friday chair a meeting on revamp in Gujarat Congress, where the party is yet to appoint a state chief and leader of opposition, with nearly an year left for Assembly polls. Rahul is scheduled to meet state in-charge Raghu Sharma and other leaders from the state amidst names of young Patidar moment leader and working president Hardik Patel, former chief Bharatsinh Solanki and Arjun Morwadia doing the rounds.

PM Narendra Modi visits Mahaparinirvana Temple on the occasion of Abhidhamma Day in Kushinagar (UP) on Wednesday | PTI

PM: Kushinagar to boost global Buddhist pilgrimage circuit

NAMITA BAJPAI @Lucknow

WHILE inaugurating Uttar Pradesh's third and the country's 87th international airport in Kushinagar on Wednesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in order to give further push to air connectivity in the country, efforts are on towards building a network of over 200 airports, heliports and water domes in the next 3-4 years.

In fact, Kushinagar International Airport is being touted as a key move to boost Buddhist pilgrimage circuit around the world as Kushinagar is the final resting place of Gautam Buddh where he attained 'Mahaparinirvan' (salvation).

The inauguration of the airport was marked by reception accorded to a Sri Lankan delegation of over 100 Buddhist monks and a 12-member entourage bringing the holy Buddha relics for exposition. Four cabinet ministers, led by Namal Rajapaksa, the Sri Lankan sports minister and son of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, accompanied the delegation which landed on the auspicious occasion of Vap Poya Day.

PM Modi said that the airport was a result of decades of hopes and expectations. "My happiness is two-fold today. As curious about the spiritual journey, I've a sense of satisfaction. As a representative of Purvanchal area, it is time for the fulfilment of a commitment," he added.

PM Modi further said that Indian airline SpiceJet was starting a direct flight between Delhi and Kushinagar in a matter of weeks. Among those present at the ceremony were Union minister of Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia, Uttar Pradesh governor Anandiben Patel, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and other dignitaries.

Speaking on the occasion, Sri Lankan sports minister Namal Rajapaksa appreciated PM Modi's 'gesture' of inviting Sri-Lankan airlines to be the first international carrier at Kushinagar airport. "It (Kushinagar International Airport) is a great gesture of PM Modi and especially inviting SriLankan airlines to be the first international carrier to land at Kushinagar International Airport," Namal Rajapaksa said.

FOUNDATION LAID FOR MEDICAL COLLEGE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday inaugurated work on several development projects, including the ₹280-crore Rajkiya Medical College which has a capacity of 500 beds, in Kushinagar. He also laid foundation stone for 12 more projects worth ₹180 crore, ahead of next year's Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh.

Modi attacks SP, says it stands for 'parivarwad'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Lucknow

RAISING the poll pitch in Purvanchal of Uttar Pradesh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday targeted the Samajwadi Party accusing it of deviating from the thought of socialist ideologue Ram Manohar Lohia who favoured integrating '*karm*' (deed) with '*karuna*' (compassion) for the cause of the deprived.

The PM charged the principal opposition party of the state with promoting *'parivarwad'* (dynastic politics) instead of practicing *'samajwad'* (socialism) leading the people to suffer during its regime.

Modi's made the comments while he was addressing a public rally in Kushinagar on Wednesday after inaugurating the international airport and development projects. The launch of several projects holds significance for eastern UP which comprises 164 Assembly seats across its 28 districts.

Referring to the Socialist ideologue during his discourse, the PM said, "Ram Manohar Lohia *Ji* used to favour integration of *'karma'* (deed) with *'karuna'* (compassion) and it should be executed with full compassion and honesty. But the previous regime was least bothered about the poor."

"The previous government's deeds were integrated with scams and crime. The people of Uttar Pradesh know very well that these people are not *'samajwadi'* (socialists) but *'pariwarwadis'* (dynasts)," he said.

EXPRESS READ

Centre-change relief for CBSE examinees

New Delhi: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE on Wednesday announced that it will permit Class X, XII students, who are not in the city of their schools and are residing somewhere else, to make a request to their respective schools to change the city of examination centre ahead of the upcoming Term I board exams. The board said it will instruct schools how to forward the requests made by students online.

Ministries owe Air India ₹33 crore

KUMAR VIKRAM @New Delhi

THREE ministries of the Central government — external affairs, defence and home — owe Air India a combined ₹33.69 crore for operation of flights. According to an RTI information, external affairs owes ₹20. 37 crore, defence ₹6.12 crore and home affairs ₹7.19 crore until July 31, 2021.

The RTI reply disclosed that outstanding dues of the home ministry are on account of VVIP flight operations of the prime minister. Dues under the defence ministry are for the president's flights.

The information was received by retired Commodore Lokesh Batra on October 14. The RTI reply disclosed that different public authorities of the government also owe Air India nearly ₹268 crore.

While the defence ministry takes care of the President's flights, the RTI reply showed that the single biggest outstanding bill from the President's Office was ₹4.45 crore, for travel between November 5, 2008 and November 8, 2008.

Dues under the external affairs ministry are on account of the vice-president's flights, evacuation flights and flights for foreign dignitaries. The single largest outstanding bill from the vice-president's office was ₹5.95 crore. As on August 31, Air India had a total debt of ₹61,562 crore. About 75% of this debt will be transferred to a special purpose vehicle AI-AHL before handing over the airline to Tata Group.

WEAPON UPGRADE

Firepower enhanced along LAC in Arunachal

MAYANK SINGH @Tawang

INDIAN Army has increased firepower along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Arunachal Pradesh with upgraded guns and also inducted new guns. Upgraded air defence and Bofors guns have been inducted and Ultra Light Howitzer (ULH) M777 deployed.

Captain Sariya Abbasi said on Wednesday, "Upgraded L 70 has been deployed in the area as a potent weapon system against low-level air threats to include unmanned aerial vehicle, unmanned combat vehicle, helicopters and modern aircraft." Captain Abbasi is Troop Commander of Army Air Defence Unit deployed close to the LAC.

L70 Air Defence Gun is a legacy equipment. Two hundred such guns have been indigenously upgraded by Indian defence PSU BEL. These can fire 300 rounds per minute at a range of more than three kms. The gun has been added with automatic target tracking capability, incorporated with high resolution electro optic sensor to include day and night television camera, thermal imaging camera and laser range finder.

Another significant addition is the upgraded Bofors guns with automatic tracking capability. Captain Prateek, serving with the Bofors regiment in Bum La sector, explained its advantages. "This has added speed and accuracy in providing gun support to the Infantry Units deployed ahead on the LAC." Bofors has an effective range of over 40 kms.

Ultra-light Howitzer M777 guns have been added to the army's arsenal. This gun gives the army the option of moving it to hilltops underslung a helicopter. A total of 145 M777s guns were commissioned in 2016 for ₹5,070 crore. It can be transported to high altitude areas by helicopter. More than 70 guns have been inducted.

'SMEAR' CAMPAIGN

Two persons have been arrested for allegedly smearing a state government hoarding written in Assamese with black ink in Silchar town in the Barak Valley, an area predominated by Bengali speakers

43 NAXALS SURRENDER IN SUKMA DIST OF CHHATTISGARH

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	33	22	Mumbai	33	25
Bhopal	31	17	Panaji	31	25
Jaipur	31	18	Patna	31	20
Amritsar	31	17	Lucknow	34	21
Chennai	32	26	Port Blair	31	25
Kolkata	33	24	Imphal	25	18
Srinagar	26	07	Chandigarh	38	18

₹200 for water bottle! Greed amid U'khand rains

Stranded tourists being evacuated in Nainital district on Wednesday | PTI

'Mindless construction, climate change fuel disasters'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Dehradun

WITH highest ever rainfall registered in Uttarakhand in the last two days, environmentalists say such weather events are likely to occur with increased frequency in future due to rampant, mindless 'development' activities.

Kavita Upadhyay, an expert on water and hydropower-related issues, said, "The Himalayas are fragile. Pouring in concrete for projects is impacting the ecosystem."

Beautification and reconstruction plans have been approved for Sukhatal and Sattal areas in Nainital district. Former is the catchment area for the Naini *tal* (lake).

"An event like the recent extreme rains may result in overflow of Sukhatal lake, which may eventually lead to flooding in the Nainital town," Upadhyay said. "The damage is going to increase if developmental plans are made by policy-makers who are unaware of the Himalayan region."

Uttarakhand has witnessed more than 10,000 extreme weather events, including rainfall, cloudbursts and landslides, since 2015, killing a total of 553 people till June this year, according to the data by Uttarakhand Disaster Management Authority.

The state received record rainfall during October 17-19. Nainital was the worst hit, receiving 410 mm rainfall, with 28 people being killed.

Vishal Singh, deputy executive director of Dehradun-based Centre for Ecology Development and Research, said, "Climate change is a significant factor and such events are only going to increase in future."

VINEET UPADHYAY @ Dehradun

THE rain disaster in Uttarakhand over the last four days has laid bare the human misery and greed. Stranded tourists and pilgrims at various locations in the hill state have bitterly complained of the worst 24-36 hours: the price of a water bottle has gone up to ₹200 and a food *thali* comes for ₹500.

Rati Kapoor, a pilgrim from Delhi who visited the Kedarnath shrine, alleged that she was overcharged for a one-room accommodation. "I came for the Char Dham Yatra with my family members, but got trapped due to the rain. I was charged ₹9,000 for one room. Normally that room is rented for ₹1,500-2,500. We were also charged ₹200 for a water bottle. This is a horrible experience."

Many others claim that the price of food has gone up 10 times. "I had to pay ₹500 for a ₹50 *thali*. I was shocked, and protested. However, there was no point," a pilgrim fumed.

The tourists have also complained of overcharging by taxis. "Normally, one would pay ₹100 or so, but we were charged ₹500-1,000 for the same distance. This amounts to cruelty and is like blackmail," said another pilgrim.

State Tourism Minister Satpal Maharaj said he had spoken to the district authorities of Rudraprayag and Uttarkashi. "They have promised to take action," he said.

Most tourists were on the way to Kedarnath and Badrinath shrines when rains and landslides blocked passages.

The Char Dham Yatra resumed on Wednesday, but to the Badrinath shrine.

Minister speaks to officials

State Tourism Minister Satpal Maharaj said he had spoken to the district authorities of Rudraprayag and Uttarkashi. "They have promised to take action," said Maharaj

Manuj Goyal, district magistrate of Rudraprayag district, said necessary arrangements are being put in place for the well-being of the pilgrims."

Meanwhile, the rising levels of the Kosi near Corbett Tiger Reserve forced wild animals to escape to the higher grounds.

AG Ansari, a wildlife enthusiast from Ramnagar said wild animals were seen fleeing to the higher reaches. "I have not seen such a heavy rain in my lifetime."

A video of an elephant caught in the flow of the Gaula river in Haldwani in Nainital district has gone viral. However, the animal found its way to safety into the forests.

4 militants killed in J&K gunfights

Slain terrorists include those who gunned down migrant labourers; one soldier also dies

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

FOUR militants including two commanders, and a soldier were killed in twin gunfights in Shopian and Kulgam districts of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday. Police said the slain militants were involved in killing a carpenter from UP and two labourers from Bihar last week.

A police official said that on specific input about the presence of militants, the police, CRPF and army personnel launched a joint cordon and search operation in Dragad area of Shopian.

"During the operation, the militants were given an opportunity to surrender. They turned down the offer and fired on the troops," he said.

> **One of the killed terrorists has been identified as Adil Wani. He was involved in the killing of carpenter Sageer Ahmad of UP. So far, 15 terrorists have been neutralised in two weeks.**
>
> Vijay Kumar, IGP

The fire was returned by the troops, triggering an encounter. In the ensuing gunfight, two militants of The Resistance Front (TRF) were killed and three army men injured. The injured soldiers were evacuated to a military hospital, where one of them, identified as Sepoy Karanveer Singh, succumbed. The deceased militants were identified as Adil Hussain Wani, resident of Shopian, and Shakir Ahmad Wani resident of Pulwama.

According to IGP (Kashmir) Vijay Kumar, Adil was district commander of LeT (TRF) and active since July 2020.

"He was involved in the killing of carpenter Sageer Ahmad of UP," the IGP said.

Sageer was shot dead by militants at Litter area of Pulwama on October 16.

A police spokesman said one of the killers of the carpenter was a resident of Litter village in Pulwama and got active recently after joining the militant folds.

Another gunfight erupted in Sopat area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district in the evening. In the brief gunfight, two militants, including a Lashkar commander Gulzar Ahmed Rishi, were killed, IGP Vijay Kumar said.

He said both the militants were involved in killing two migrant labourers (Raja Reshi Dev and Joginder Reshi Dev, both from Bihar) at Wanpoh, Kulgam on October 17.

Female security personnel frisk commuters in Srinagar | ZAHOOR PUNJABI

NIA RAIDS 11 LOCATIONS, ARRESTS FOUR

New Delhi: Intensifying its crackdown on terror networks and overground workers (OGWs) of terror outfits, the NIA on Wednesday raided 11 locations and arrested four people for their alleged involvement in terror activities, taking the total number of such arrests to nine. The searches were carried out at four locations in Srinagar, two places each in Baramulla and Awantipora, among others. The searches included raids at houses of Arif Manzoor Sheikh of Fatehgarh and Hurriyat (Geelani) activist Abdul Rashid Rather of Audora.

Ripened apples fail to cheer farmers in Valley as migrant workers exit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Srinagar

EXODUS of migrant labourers and forecast of bad weather amid the apple harvest season are keeping fruit growers in Kashmir on edge.

Fruit producers, especially apple farmers, are facing shortage of labour as well as increase in labour cost due to the sudden exit of farm workers after the spate in targeted killings by militants. Adding to their woes is the weather advisory of heavy rain and snow in the Valley from October 22 to 24.

Mohammad Ashraf, president of Fruit Mandi Shopian, told this newspaper that apple farmers have been severely affected. "Only 10-20 per cent of apples in Shopian district have been harvested so far. Migrant workers have left amid the harvest season. The packaging of apple boxes has also been affected," he said.

Ashraf said the work in all the cold storages (around 50) in south Kashmir, which have a total capacity to store 2 lakh metric tonnes of apple, has also been badly hit.

"The produce is supposed to be kept in cold storage within 24 hours of harvest but for the last four days, thousands of apple cartons are lying unattended due to non-availability of labourers," Ashraf said adding, "Large quantity of apples are likely to be damaged".

Shopian produces about 3 lakh MT of apples per year, while Kashmir produced 16 lakh MT of the fruit last year.

Kashmir Fruit Growers and Traders' Union president Basheer Ahmad Basheer said most of the non-local traders, who had come to purchase apple from the Valley, have left. "And those who have not left are confined indoors," he said. Basheer said the weather advisory, which has predicted heavy rains and snowfall has added to the woes. "It is impossible to harvest the remaining apple crop (around 40 per cent in north Kashmir) in two days in the absence of labourers," he said.

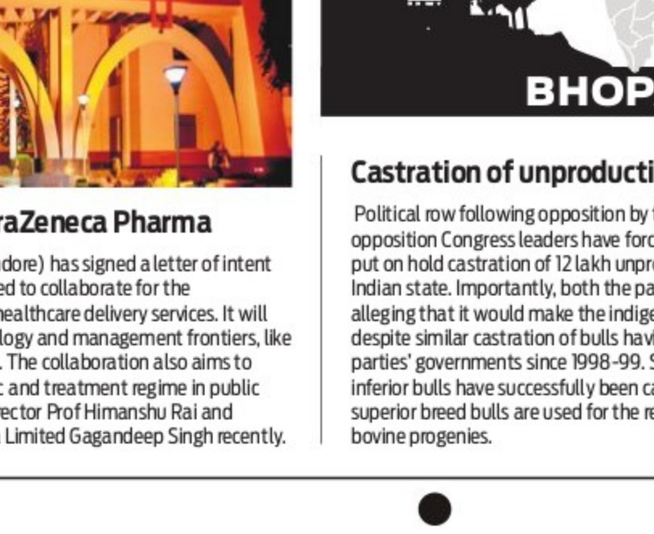
LANDSLIDE CUTS OFF HIGHWAY LINKING NORTH BENGAL & SIKKIM

PRANAB MONDAL @ Kolkata

TORRENTIAL rains caused landslides in north Bengal cutting off National Highway 10, the arterial thoroughfare linking the state with Gangtok in Sikkim, on Wednesday morning. Thousands of tourists, who thronged the hills in the northern part of the state and the northeastern state of Sikkim on the occasion of Durga Puja holidays got stranded in popular destinations in Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts.

Communication with the hills and Bagdogra airport and railway stations like New Jalpaiguri and Siliguri were snapped after cracks were spotted in one of the pillars of a major bridge. Toy train services, a key tourist attraction, were also suspended after landslides damaged tracks near Darjeeling.

The situation, however, improved on Wednesday afternoon after the downpour stopped and local authorities started removing debris of the landslides. The water of river Teesta, which had been flowing above the danger mark since Tuesday night, came down and communication with Kalimpong was partially restored.



Vehicles on a flooded road in West Bengal's Birbhum on Wednesday | PTI

According to officials of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), incessant rains resulted in landslide blocking the crucial NH-10 which is used by both the army and civilians. Supporting pillars of a steel bridge at Rangpo, the gateway to Sikkim, were damaged after heavy flow in Teesta swept away embankments at many places.

As the overnight downpour on Tuesday continued, 3,800 cusec water was released from Gajoldoba Teesta barrage. The Met department said bad weather would prevail in the sub-Himalayan districts till Thursday.

EXPRESS READ

Weapons and drugs seized near Pak border

Chandigarh: The Punjab Police on Wednesday seized a huge cache of arms and ammunition besides heroin during a search operation near the fencing on Indo-Pak Border in Tarn Taran. The operation was jointly conducted by the BSF and Counter Intelligence-Amritsar in the area of BOP Mianwali Hithaar, Khemkarn sector. Sharing details, officiating DGP Iqbal Preet Singh Sahota said the police received information that some Pak-based border operatives had concealed a huge consignment of arms and heroin. The sleuths recovered 22 pistols along with 100 live rounds besides a packet of heroin.

Rajbhar seals pre-poll alliance with SP, vows to defeat BJP in 2022 UP election

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

IN a major development ahead of Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls, former minister in the Yogi Adityanath government and Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP) chief, Om Prakash Rajbhar on Wednesday sealed a pre-poll alliance with the Samajwadi Party (SP).

Rajbhar, along with chief general secretary of SBSP Arvind Rajbhar, met SP chief Akhilesh Yadav in Lucknow and said both parties would work together to ensure the defeat of the BJP.

Taking to Twitter after meeting Akhilesh, Rajbhar posted: "This time, the BJP will be wiped out. The SP and SBSP have come together. The days of the BJP government, which betrayed all sections, are numbered. Had a courtesy meeting with former CM and SP Chief Akhilesh Yadav today."

The SBSP chief had recently said that anything was possible in politics and given hints of rejoining the NDA.

Interacting with media persons, SBSP national spokesperson Piyush Mishra said the alliance with the SP was final but seat-sharing would be finalised later. He claimed more parties of the Bhagidari Sankalp Morcha (BSM), which Rajbhar was heading, would be adjusted in the alliance.

Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM is also a part of the BSM. On the question of AIMIM being part of the Morcha, Mishra said if required, the SBSP would part ways with the former. Notably, Owaisi is a staunch critic of the SP "using Muslims as vote bank".

Five cops suspended over Agra custodial death

Policewomen take selfies with Priyanka Gandhi in Lucknow | PTI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Lucknow

UP politics heated up once again as a sanitation worker allegedly died in police custody in Agra on Tuesday night. On Wednesday, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra was detained by the police and later allowed to go to Agra to meet the victim's family.

Sources said Arun Valmiki, 30, who was accused of stealing ₹25 lakh from the warehouse of Jagdishpur police station, allegedly died in police custody after his condition deteriorated during interrogation in the lockup. Five police personnel, including an inspector, a sub-inspector and three constables, have been suspended after the incident came to light.

Priyanka was given permission to proceed to Agra along with only four of her associates as Section 144 of CrPC was clamped there. Earlier, she was stopped by the police as the district magistrate had banned entry of politicians into Agra following the death.

Later, Lucknow Police Commissioner DK Thakur claimed that Priyanka was neither detained nor arrested but her cavalcade had been stopped as it was causing obstruction of traffic. She was taken to the Police Lines for a brief period before being let off.

While SP chief Akhilesh yadav accused the police of committing the theft and framing the sanitary worker, BSP supremo Mayawati expressed shock over the incident.

IIM-I to collaborate with AstraZeneca Pharma

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM-Indore) has signed a letter of intent (LoI) with AstraZeneca Pharma India Limited to collaborate for the development and establishment of better healthcare delivery services. It will also enable focused research in new technology and management frontiers, like Big Data and Video Analytics, SMM and GIS. The collaboration also aims to review the existing identification, diagnostic and treatment regime in public health setup. The LoI was signed by IIM-I director Prof Himanshu Rai and Country Head of AstraZeneca Pharma India Limited Gagandeep Singh recently.

BHOPAL DIARY

ANURAAG SINGH
Our correspondent in Madhya Pradesh
singhanuraag.journo@gmail.com

Castration of unproductive bulls to be stopped

Political row following opposition by the ruling BJP MP Pragya Thakur and opposition Congress leaders have forced the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government to put on hold castration of 12 lakh unproductive and inferior bulls across the central Indian state. Importantly, both the parties opposed the government's move, alleging that it would make the indigenous breeds of bovine population extinct, despite similar castration of bulls having been done in the state by both the parties' governments since 1998-99. Since 1998-99, around 1.33 unproductive/inferior bulls have successfully been castrated in the state to ensure that only superior breed bulls are used for the reproduction of healthy and high milk yielding bovine progenies.

BJP MLA makes controversial remark

Loudmouth BJP MLA and ex-Pro Tem Speaker of Vidhan Sabha, Rameshwar Sharma, continues to make controversial statements from public platforms. "Hindus should stay away from Father and Chadar (from Christian and Muslim/Sufi priests) and Peer Babas, as they are damaging Hinduism and also an obstacle in going to temples," Sharma said while addressing a Dussehra event in Bhopal. He had recently kicked up a row by making remarks about the marriage of Mughal ruler Akbar and Rajput princess Jodha Bai.

Ripples as ex-MP minister meets home minister

The meeting between state Congress chief Kamal Nath's close confidant and ex-MP minister Sajjan Verma and MP home minister Narottam Mishra has created ripples in the political circles of the BJP-ruled state. Verma, the former PWD minister, recently met the home minister in Bhopal, but made it clear that there was nothing political about the meeting. He said he had met Mishra just like any MLA meets the state's home minister for the issues of his constituency. Earlier, some other senior Congress leaders, including former LoP Ajay Singh, ex-parliamentary affairs minister Govind Singh and ex-union minister Kantilal Bhuria too had met the home minister.

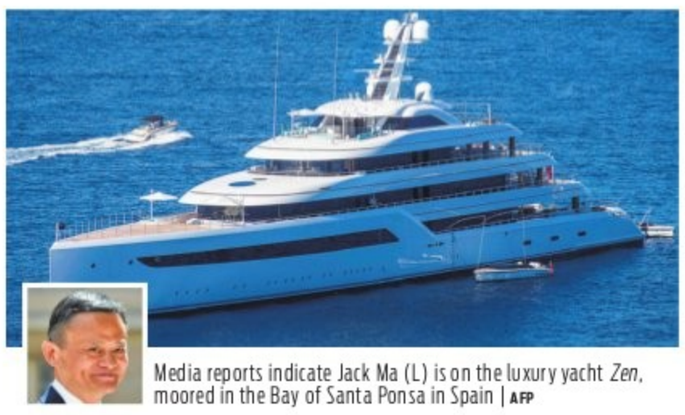
27 killed
in a rare bombing of an army bus in Damascus and the government shelling shortly after that

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	21	15	HR	Los Angeles	22	17	SNY
Colombo	29	26	TDS	Melbourne	15	6	LR
Dhaka	33	27	TDS	Moscow	11	-1	LR
Dubai	38	28	SNY	New York	24	18	SNY
Houston	32	20	SNY	Singapore	31	27	LC
Istanbul	22	16	SNY	Toronto	18	16	LC
London	20	14	LC	Washington	24	17	LC

Jack Ma leaves China for 1st time since crackdown

Beijing's tough stance on regulating lucrative tech industry may be softening, experts say



Media reports indicate Jack Ma (L) is on the luxury yacht *Zen*, moored in the Bay of Santa Ponsa in Spain | AFP

HONG KONG

ALIBABA shares surged more than 9% on Wednesday after billionaire founder Jack Ma was reported to be in Europe, fuelling investor hopes that the worst of China's regulatory crackdown for the internet giant might be over.

Ma has kept a low profile ever since mainland officials spiked what would have been a world record $37 billion initial public offering for Alibaba's financial group Ant last November.That shock decision kicked off what became a cascading series of crackdowns by Chinese authorities on a host of tech and other industries deemed to have become too powerful, unregulated or monopolistic.

Ma's presence in Spain -- for a "study tour of the agricultural industry and technology related to the environment" – was reported by the *South China Morning Post*, which is owned by Alibaba.

The paper said the 57-year-old, who retired from the role of Alibaba's chairman in 2019, was attending a series of business meetings in Europe.

It said he had also stayed in Hong Kong for "private time" with his family before his trip abroad, citing an anonymous source familiar with Ma's itinerary. An Alibaba spokesperson declined to comment.

But the news sent Alibaba's shares soaring, up as much as 9.2% higher in Hong Kong on Wednesday. So far this month, the firm's share price has surged 23% as hopes rise the company is now out of the dog house with authorities in Beijing. "It's getting clearer and clearer that the worst of Beijing's crackdowns are behind us, in particular in the technology sector as they were the first to suffer," Jackson Wong, asset management director at Amber Hill Capital, told *Bloomberg*.

Alibaba fell out of favour soon after Ma gave a speech criticising China's financial regulators. Authorities pulled Ant's IPO and followed up with an antitrust probe of Alibaba, eventually fining the company $2.75 billion.

Chinese authorities have also ordered Ant to undergo restructuring as a condition for reviving its IPO.

Ma disappeared towards the end of the last year but briefly resurfaced in January after a video clip showed him giving a speech to rural teachers. *AFP*

Beleagured Evergrande says will resume trading

The Chinese developer Evergrande will resume trading in Hong Kong on Thursday, it said in a filing, adding that a deal to sell a stake in its property services arm had fallen through. A deal -- worth $2.58 billion -- to sell a 50.1% stake in its property services arm had fallen through, it added in a separate statement. China's new-home prices fell for the first time in six years last month.

Af judges live in constant fear of former prisoners

KABUL

MANY of the over 200 female judges still in Afghanistan are under threat and in hiding, a media report said on Wednesday. The judges are afraid that they are their loved ones could be killed because of their work on justice for Afghan women.

"A dark future is awaiting everyone in Afghanistan, especially female judges," Nabila, a judge in Afghanistan's Supreme Court, told *The New York Times*. Nabila, whose full name was withheld for her protection, granted divorces to women whose husbands had been jailed for violent offences against them.

Such men were among the hundreds of prisoners the Taliban set free in August. Within days, Nabila had begun getting death threats from the prisoners, *The Times* reported. She went into hiding as she searched for ways to leave the country along with her husband and three daughters.

The Taliban have recovered the personal info of female judges, some of whose bank accounts have been frozen.

Nearly 90% of women in Afghanistan experience some from of domestic abuse, as per a 2008 study by the United States Institute of Peace. Before the Taliban took over recently, more than 270 women judges worked in the country's judicial system, bring some much-needed reform.

Now many judges and lawyers who defended women in such cases are in hiding.

The Times wrote that the "plight of female judges and lawyers is one more example of the Taliban's systematic unravelling of gains made by women over the past two decades."

Susan Glazebrook, a justice of the Supreme Court in New Zealand, told the newspaper: "The women judges of Afghanistan are under threat for applying the law."

"They are under threat because they have made rulings in favor of women according to law in family violence, custody and divorce cases."

CHIEF ECONOMIST

Gita Gopinath to quit her IMF post in January

WASHINGTON

IMF chief economist Gita Gopinath will leave her post and return to Harvard University's economics department in January, the fund said.

Harvard extended Gopinath's leave of absence by one year, which allowed her to serve at the IMF for three years, the statement said.

She heads the International Monetary Fund's research department which produces the quarterly World Economic Outlook report with its closely watched GDP growth forecasts.

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva praised Gopinath, who "made history" as the first woman to serve in the top economics post, for her critical analysis during the pandemic.

"Gita's contribution to the Fund and our membership has been truly remarkable -- quite simply, her impact on the IMF's work has been tremendous," Georgieva said in a statement.

"We benefitted immensely from her sharp intellect and deep knowledge of international finance and macroeconomics as we navigate through the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression."

She had a key role in setting global vaccination targets to end the Covid-19 pandemic, and also helped set up a Climate Change team inside the IMF to analyze, among other things, optimal climate mitigation policies, Georgieva said.

Gopintath's decision to leave was not linked to the recent controversy surrounding Georgieva, according to a person familiar with the matter.

Georgieva, who previously served in a top position at the World Bank, was implicated in an investigation showing officials pressured economists to alter results of the bank's closely-watched "Doing Business" report that ranked countries based on business-friendly policies. Gopinath's decision to leave the fund was "unrelated to the events the last few weeks," the person told AFP. Gopinath is a dual US-Indian citizen. *AFP*

Zahir Jaffer (L) allegedly raped and beheaded Noor Mukadam, 27 | AFP

Pak bizman in widely watched beheading case goes on trial

ISLAMABAD

A Pakistani-American man accused of raping and beheading his girlfriend, the daughter of a former ambassador, went on trial Wednesday in the capital Islamabad.

The brutal murder of Noor Mukadam, 27, in July sparked protests across the country and calls for reform to Pakistan's gender violence laws.

Zahir Jaffer, 30, from a wealthy industrialist family, has denied killing Mukadam.

"The trial has formally started. Our first witness was examined today and we will produce five more witnesses at the next hearing", Shah Khawar, a prosecution lawyer told AFP outside the court in Islamabad.

The 27-year-old was attacked after refusing a marriage proposal, attempting repeatedly to escape Jaffer's sprawling mansion in an upscale neighbourhood in Islamabad but blocked each time by his staff, a police report said.

Jaffer raped and tortured her with a knuckle duster before beheading her with a "sharp-edged weapon", it added.

"Her life could have been saved had the accomplices acted otherwise," the report said, which was presented to the court in a previous hearing.

Eleven others have also been charged in connection to the murder, including some of Jaffer's household staff, his parents, and others who were allegedly asked to conceal evidence. *AFP*

FB fined £50.5 mn for withholding deal data

LONDON

BRITAIN'S competition watchdog fined Facebook 50.5 million pounds on Wednesday for violating rules during the UK investigation into the social media giant's purchase of Giphy.

The Competition and Markets Authority said Facebook failed to provide required info during the probe. It said it gave the platform multiple warnings and "considers that Facebook's failure to comply was deliberate.

The authority said it was the first time a company had been found to breach a so-called initial enforcement order by consciously refusing to report required information. Such orders are standard practice at the start of an investigation into a completed merger and are meant to prevent companies from further integrating while the probe takes place.

The company was fined 50 million pounds for breaching the order, and another 500,000 pounds for changing its chief compliance officer twice without consent.

"We warned Facebook that its refusal to provide us with important information was a breach of the order but, even after losing its appeal in two separate courts, Facebook continued to disregard its legal obligations," Joel Bamford, senior director of mergers at the CMA said in a statement. *AP*

British health leaders call for lockdown measures

LONDON

Healthcare leaders urged the British government Wednesday to reinstate some coronavirus restrictions to ease pressures on hospitals because of spiralling case numbers.

But ministers remain opposed to reintroducing any curbs, arguing the situation is still far better than earlier this year and the country is learning to "live with the virus".

A total of 223 deaths from Covid-19 were registered on Tuesday -- the highest 24-hour toll since March -- while there is mounting concern at daily case rates.

The country is averaging more than 40,000 new cases a day for the first time since the summer, and the number of patients admitted to hospital is increasing.

Matthew Taylor, head of the NHS Confederation representing the state-run health service in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, said hospitals were feeling severe pressure and action was needed as the busier winter period approaches.

"We've got a very particular problem over this winter, and we need to act," he told Sky News.

Taylor said health leaders report the worsening Covid-19 situation means they are missing key targets in areas such as waits in emergency departments, ambulance response times and treatment backlogs. *AFP*

ASIA MATTERS

SINGAPORE

Health system buckles under new virus surge

Singapore's healthcare system is at risk of being "overwhelmed" by surging coronavirus infections, government officials warned Wednesday, a day after the city-state expanded quarantine-free travel as it shifts its approach to dealing with the pandemic. The daily number of infections shot to a record 3,994 cases on Tuesday and the death toll continues to rise. "At the current situation, we face considerable risk of the healthcare system being overwhelmed," said Lawrence Wong, co-chairs of a government task force fighting Covid-19. Wong, who is also the finance minister, said 90% of isolation beds in hospitals have been filled and more than two-thirds of ICU beds are occupied. Most of Singapore's cases are mild or asymptomatic with such patients recovering at home.

NEPAL

31 dead after heavy rains

Thirty-one people were reported dead after days of heavy rains across the country. Disaster management official Humkala Pandey said that 43 others were still missing. "It's still raining in many places... The toll could go up further," she added. In the eastern district of Dhankuta, a landslide buried a house overnight, killing six people including three kids. Swelling rivers flooded homes in several districts, damaging roads and bridges and destroying crops. Landslides are a regular danger in the Himalayan region, but they are becoming more common.

PAKISTAN

Imran accused of selling gifts from heads of state

Pakistan's Opposition parties on Wednesday accused PM Imran Khan of selling gifts he received from other countries' heads, including an expensive watch worth $1 million. Gifts are routinely exchanged between heads of states or officers holding constitutional positions during a state visit. As per the gift depository rules, these gifts remain the property of the state unless sold at an open auction. Rules allow officials to retain gifts with a market value of less than Rs 10,000 without paying anything, *The Express Tribune* reported. "Imran Khan has sold the gifts he received from other countries," PML-N vice president Maryam Nawaz tweeted in Urdu. The watch was allegedly sold in Dubai by Khan's close aide and $1 million was given to the prime minister.

S Africa strikes new kind of 'gold' in helium reserve

In a grassy plain in South Africa, once the world's largest gold producer, prospectors have stumbled upon a new treasure: helium. Popularly known for birthday balloons and squeaky voices, helium plays an underappreciated role in medical scanners, superconductors, and space travel. We take a look

87,000 hectare

land in Free State Province is area for which Stefano Marani and Nick Mitchell brought gas rights, for just $1 in 2012

When they had their gas finds tested, they discovered unusually high amounts of helium mixed in with the gas that mean their dollar investment could be worth billions

$100 bn
the reserves would be worth, if proven

1.4 tn
This much amount of helium could fill 1.4 trillion party balloons

9.74 bn cubic meters of helium the reserve could have, the company Renergen estimated, larger than the known reserves in the entire United States

30 years
Demand, and prices, for helium have more than doubled over the last 30 years. As the uses for helium multiply, nations around the world are increasingly concerned about securing a steady supply. Russia, Tanzania and the United States have all been looking at developing new reserves

KEEPING COOL

Keeping helium as a liquid requires cooling it to nearly zero. Those temperatures — combined with the fact that helium doesn't burn or interact with other gases — make it useful for cooling incredibly hot things. Magnets on MRI scanners, for example, or rocket engines

7%

Eventually, helium production at the South African site could rise to five tonnes daily - roughly seven percent of the planet's current helium production, Marani said. "It's big," he said. "It's quite meaningful by global standards"

EXPONENTIAL GROWTH

Elon Musk could be world's first trillionaire, predicts analyst

NEW YORK

ELON Musk became the world's richest person on the back of his electric car company's dominant position in its market. But it will be his space exploration firm, SpaceX, that will make the South African-born American entrepreneur a trillionaire, an analyst said.

Bloomberg reported that Morgan Stanley's Adam Jonas wrote SpaceX "is challenging any preconceived notion of what was possible and the time frame possible, in terms of rockets, launch vehicles and supporting infrastructure."

Jonas sees SpaceX as multiple companies housed in one, covering "space infrastructure, Earth observation, deep-space exploration and other industries". The Starlink satellite business is the most highly valued in SpaceX.

Elon Musk (R) and his former romantic partner, Grimes, a singer | AP

TOP TEN RICHEST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD

Values in billions of dollars

Elon Musk	241.4
Jeff Bezos	198.9
Bernard Arnault	160.5
Bill Gates	132.0
Larry Page	127.5
Mark Zuckerberg	126.7
Sergey Brin	122.9
Larry Ellison	111.9
Steve Ballmer	110.2
Warren Buffett	103.5

Jonas made the claim about the 50-year-old Musk becoming in a trillionare in a note titled *SpaceX Escape Velocity ... Who Can Catch Them?*

Musk reportedly owns about half of SpaceX, *Bloomberg* said, and the company is the second-most valuable private firm in the world, according to CB insights.

Musk's net worth right now is mostly made of Tesla stock. A $100 billion share sale at Spacex this month in a secondary offering has increased the company's wealth, the *Daily Mail* reported. "SpaceX has already launched 1,740 Starlink satellites to date, currently providing an internet network to over 100,000 users in 14 different countries who are a part of the project's public beta, with service priced at $99 a month," the *Mail* said.

SpaceX earlier this year sent the first all-civilian crew on a trip around the Earth's orbit, while Blue Origin and Virgin Galactic conducted their maiden suborbital missions.

On the personal front, last month Elon Musk told *Page Six* that he and the Canadian singer Grimes have ended their romantic relationship after three years. But he says they remain on good terms, she still lives at his house in California and they continue to raise their 1-year-old son together.

EXPRESS READ

Bitcoin above $66,000 after Wall Street debut

London: Bitcoin surged Wednesday to a record above $66,000 after taking another step towards mainstream status as the world's most popular cryptocurrency forayed onto Wall Street. A bitcoin futures exchange-traded fund (ETF), a type of financial instrument, launched on the New York Stock Exchange on Tuesday. The news electrified demand for the cryptocurrency, which scaled an all-time pinnacle of $66,976 in London on Wednesday. The virtual unit, created 13 years ago, has been embraced by many major banks. The new fund is a more accessible vehicle that puts bitcoin within the grasp of even more investors.

Week-long paid leave in Russian lockdown

Moscow: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday ordered a nationwide week-long paid holiday to curb Covid infections in Europe's worst affected country and urged Russians to show "responsibility" and get vaccinated. Putin approved a government plan to declare a non-working week across the country from October 30 as Russia registered a record 1,028 coronavirus deaths in a single day. "The main aim is to protect the lives and health of our citizens," the 69-year-old Kremlin chief said during a televised meeting. Coronavirus Infection rates have soared in recent weeks.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BUSINESS

12 BENGALURU | THURSDAY 21.10.2021 | newindianexpress.com

Market Watch

MARKET			GOLD			SILVER			FOREX		
456.09 ▼	Sensex	61,259.96	₹16.4 ▲	24 carat (1 gm)	₹4,754.8	₹1.386 ▲	Per kg	₹64,496	▼ Dollar		74.76
152.15 ▼	Nifty	18,266.60	₹16.4 ▲	22 carat (1 gm)	₹4,735.8	₹1.386 ▲	Per gm	₹64,496	▼ Euro		87.06

Stock price dip a market phenomenon: IRCTC

Says operations are normal within company; investors lose about ₹30,000 cr as stock plunges over 30% in 2 days

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

AMID falling share prices, IRCTC on Wednesday said that the stock movement is a market phenomenon and the operations within the company are normal. "Stock movement is pure market play. There is no such development with the company that is impacting its value," an official with the IRCTC told *TNIE*.

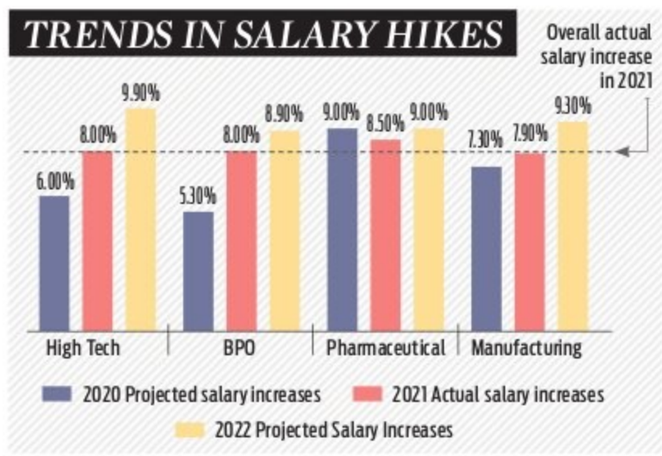
Shares of IRCTC nose-dived 17% on Wednesday and 31% overall from Tuesday's record high of ₹6,393, taking investors by surprise. Many analysts said the stock was due for some correction after a strong rally in which it had rallied over 290% in the last six months. The scrip plunged 17.34% to close at ₹4,432.95 after NSE banned the trading in its F&O segment.

Investors who have invested in IRCTC have lost about ₹30,000 crore over the past two days as m-cap of the state-run enterprise has reduced to around ₹71,000 crore, after crossing the ₹1 lakh crore-mark during trade hours on Tuesday.

Experts say the fundamentals of the stock are still intact, and the correction came on the back of its overvaluation. Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investmart, said, "It had become very easy for the traders to make easy money every day and we know that the market is not charitable enough to make you easy money every day, therefore, we are seeing a sharp correction in this counter to take out accesses. There is some buzz that government may also dilute some stake to get the benefit of the recent rally in this counter."

He added, "Technically, it is trading near to its 20-DMA (day moving average) of ₹4,400 and if it manages to hold this level then we can expect a bounce-back from here. Otherwise, we can see further downside where ₹4,000-3,800 will be a critical demand zone to take fresh buying positions."

Yash Gupta, Equity Research Analyst at Angel One, said, "We have seen a sharp selloff in the broader market in the last two days and many stocks such as IRCTC, IEX, Tata Motors, Tata Power and Deepak Nitrite corrected sharply during the period." He suggested retail investors to avoid buying on dips kind of strategies, "as we are seeing selling pressure in the broader market".



Employees may get average 8.8% pay hike in 2022

SAMIKSHA GOEL @ New Delhi

PROFESSIONALS can heave a sigh of relief as it might be time to bid goodbye to salary-cuts and freeze in appraisals, with pay rises seeming to be making a comeback.

Companies in India, in response to recovery from business challenges caused by the pandemic, are planning on giving employees bigger hikes in 2022. Salaries are projected to see a median increase of 9.3% next year (translating to an average salary increase of 8.8%) as compared to the actual median salary increase of 8% (average salary increase of 7.4%) in 2021, according to Salary Budget Planning Report released on Wednesday by global advisory, broking and solutions firm Willis Towers Watson.

> **While talent attraction and retention remain a challenge, the core employee value proposition will now need to go beyond just competitive salaries...**
>
> Rajul Mathur, Consulting Leader India, Willis Towers Watson

This optimism emerges from a positive business sentiment among India Inc. According to the report, a majority (52.2%) of companies in India have projected a positive business revenue outlook for the next 12 months, up from 37% in Q4-2020.

The high-tech sector is expected to see the highest salary increase at 9.9% in 2022, followed by the consumer products and retail sector at 9.5%, and manufacturing at 9.30%. On the other hand, the projected salary increase of the energy sector is the lowest at 7.9%.

Commenting on the findings, Rajul Mathur, Consulting Leader India, Talent and Rewards, Willis Towers Watson, said, "Increased business optimism is clearly translating into higher salary budgets and increased hiring activity. The pandemic was a watershed moment in the way organisations plan their people spend. While talent attraction and retention remain a challenge, the core employee value proposition will now need to go beyond just competitive salaries, and increasingly focus on a wider range of benefits, wellness, upskilling and the overall employee experience."

Most start-ups increased their salary spends this year alongside a growing headcount, indicating further hikes, promotions and hires, according to RazorpayX Payroll Insights. Total salary spends increased by 43% during the period, with EdTech, FinTech, and Electronics sectors witnessing a significant pay rise. Some start-ups even increased the median salary of their employees by 7% this year.

USER BASE

Subscriber addition: Jio, Airtel gain, Voda-Idea loses

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

INDIA'S top two telecom operators- Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel- continue to add customers while debt-laden and cash-starved Vodafone India (Vi) lost its subscriber base once again.

In the month of August, Reliance Jio gained 0.65 million wireless customers, taking its gross mobile user base to 443.86 million while Airtel's subscriber base rose by 0.13 million to 354.19 million. Vi, on the contrary, lost 0.83 million customers, that took its total mobile user base to 271.06 million.

According to data released by telecom regulator Trai, Jio and Airtel have now marginally widened customer market shares to 37.40% (from 37.34% in July) and 29.85% (from 29.83% in July) respectively, while Vi's market share came down to 22.84% (from 22.91% in July). State-run telco BSNL lost around 60,439 subscribers in August. It commanded a market share of 9.63%.

Telecom analysts have previously pointed out Vodafone Idea losing a subscriber base isn't surprising as it had removed the base plan of ₹49 and low-paying users were forced to opt for the ₹79 plan at least. This had impacted its performance mainly in rural India.

The Trai data also showed that Jio boosted its leadership in rural India, adding 0.88 million users in those markets in August, while both Vi and Airtel lost 0.66 million and 0.54 million customers, respectively, in these geographies.

Voda Idea defers spectrum payments for 4 years

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

VODAFONE Idea has approved the deferment of its spectrum auction instalments for four years (October 2021 to September 2025) as per the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) notification on November 14.

The company said other options offered by DoT in the said notification will be considered by its board in the stipulated time frame.

"...we wish to inform you that the Board of Directors of the Company has approved the exercise of the option of deferment of the Company's spectrum auction instalments for a period of 4 years (October 2021 to September 2025)," the company said in a statement to stock exchanges.

The announcement from Vodafone Idea comes after the government last week wrote to telcos including Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea and Reliance Jio asking them to convey by October 29 if they would be opting for the four-year dues moratorium.

The telecom department has also given 90-days time to the operators to indicate if they want to opt for converting the interest amount pertaining to the moratorium period into equity.

The reliefs were first announced by the government in September when there were wide concerns that Vodafone-Idea, reeling under the statutory dues of billions of dollars, may be left with no other options but to shut its shop in the country.

Vi is burdened with ₹1.9 lakh crore of debt as on June 30,2021— faces ₹58,254 crore in AGR dues, of which it has paid 7,854 crore.

Reforms in oil & gas sector will make India self-reliant, PM tells global execs

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said that reforms initiated by his government in the oil and gas sector would continue with the goal of making India self-reliant in the sector.

The prime Minister was interacting with chief executive officers (CEOs) and global executives from oil and gas sector.

Prime Minister discussed in detail the reforms undertaken in the oil and gas sector in the last seven years, including the ones in exploration and licensing policy, gas marketing, policies on coal bed methane, coal gasification, and the recent reform in Indian Gas Exchange.

Talking about the oil sector, he said that the focus has shifted from 'revenue' to 'production' maximization. He also spoke about the need to enhance storage facilities for crude oil. He further talked about the rapidly growing natural gas demand in the country. He talked about the current and potential gas infrastructure development including pipelines, city gas distribution and LNG regasification terminals.

The meeting was attended by chairman and managing director of Reliance Industries Mukesh Ambani, chairman and CEO of Rosneft Dr Igor Sechin, Saudi Aramco president and CEO Amin Nasser petroleum and natural gas minister Hardeep Singh Puri, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Rajiv Kumar Vice chairman Niti Aayog, among other. The meeting holds importance amid rising energy cost including crude oil, gas and coal.

Earlier in the day petroleum minister Hardeep Puri flagged concern over high oil price which could derail economic recovery. "I am sure our friends in OPEC will take into account the sentiment voiced in forums like these. We are trying to ensure economic activity, but if high prices undermine that economic activity then economic activity will slow down and demand for oil and gas will also go down," Puri told the India Energy Forum.

He said that the extreme volatility and high prices have led to surge in the domestic prices of hydrocarbon fuels. The high prices of oil has impact on the economies, leading to surge in inflation and affecting the logistics cost. The price of petrol in Delhi rose to its highest-ever level of ₹106.19 a litre and and ₹112.11 per litre in Mumbai.

India flags concern at energy forum

At the India Energy Forum, petroleum minister Hardeep Puri flagged concern over high oil price. "I am sure our friends in OPEC will take into account the sentiment voiced in forums like these. We are trying to ensure economic activity, but if high prices undermine that economic activity then economic activity will slow down and demand for oil and gas will also go down," Puri said, adding, the extreme volatility and high prices have led to surge in the prices of hydrocarbon fuels.

TODAY'S STOCK PICK

Current Price ₹204.95

Target Price ₹250

BEL

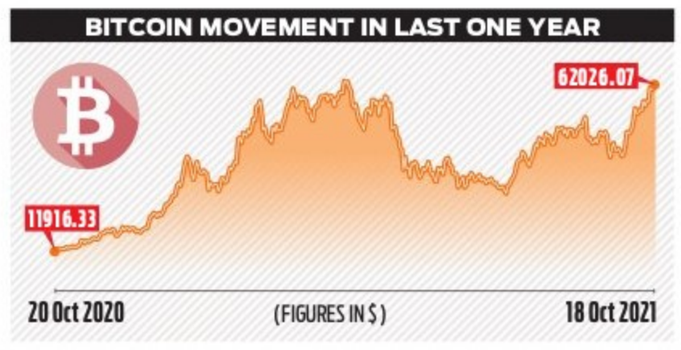
BEL has maintained guidance at 15–17% growth and EBITDA margin guidance at 22% for FY22. We believe BEL has sufficient levers to recover lost sales over 9MFY22 and meet its guidance, thus we maintain Buy rating.

— Motilal Oswal Securities Limited

Disclaimer: The views and recommendations made above are that of the individual analyst or broking company, and not that of *The New Indian Express*.

Bitcoin ETF in US a big validation, say Indian cryptocurrency exchanges

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
@ New Delhi



BUOYED by the launch of Bitcoin futures Exchange-Traded Fund (ETF) in the US a day ago, prices of the cryptocurrency surged by over 7% to breach $66,000-mark on Wednesday.

Cryptocurrency players in India see the development as a big validation for crypto-currency, and they hope that other countries may also follow on the footstep of the US. In India, cryptocurrency exchanges see this as a possible trigger for softening of the government and regulator's stance towards digital currencies.

Nischal Shetty, CEO of cryptocurrency exchange WazirX, says that the move would increase investor confidence in cryptocurrencies as well as make regulators across the world have a relook at their stance against it.

Indian central bank the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has maintained that private cryptocurrencies would be detrimental to the country's economy. Recently, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat had also expressed his reservation against cryptocurrencies.

Experts hope the launch of Bitcoin Futures ETF would help change the narrative in cryptocurrencies' favour.

"The launch of bitcoin futures ETF shows that there is clear mainstreaming visibility from both the investor and regulator landscape. This is an important step for crypto to become a digital asset class of the future recognised by all stakeholders," says CoinDCX Research Team.

The launch of ETF may also bring in new set of investors, both individual and institutional.

"Because of regulatory uncertainty, the corporate and institutional investors largely stayed away from crypto-currency. With the ETF, more traditional investors would come in the cryptocurrency market," says Shetty of WazirX.

The first Bitcoin Futures ETF – ProShare Bitcoin Strategy ETF – was launched on Tuesday. The ETF would offer exposure to Bitcoin futures contract. The ETF jumped 4.8% to close at $41.94 on Tuesday.

EXPRESS READ

Paid period time-off for Swiggy women staff

New Delhi: Food delivery firm Swiggy said on Wednesday that it has introduced a two-day paid monthly period time-off policy for its female delivery partners.

Upon opting for the time-off, the delivery partners will receive a minimum earnings guarantee.

Swiggy has over 200,000 delivery partners and about 1,000 of them are women. The food delivery services firm said the discomfort from being out and about on the road while menstruating is one of the most under-reported reasons why many women don't consider delivery to be a viable gig

EPFO adds 14.81 lakh net subscribers in Aug

New Delhi: The provisional payroll data of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) released on Wednesday reveals it added around 14.81 lakh net subscribers during the August 2021, a labour ministry statement said. The data reflects a growing trend in net payroll for the first five months of the current financial year, it added. The net subscriber addition increased by 12.61% in August as compared to July 2021. Of the total subscribers, around 9.19 lakh members have come under the social security ambit of EPFO for the first time.

Real estate prices may rise 30-40% in 4-5 years

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
@ New Delhi

AFTER remaining stagnant for the past 6-7 years, real estate prices are beginning to recover in select pockets/projects, said a report. According to a sector report by Motilal Oswal Financial Services (MOFSL), while developers will keep a close eye on how the inventory position pans out, the supply shortage will certainly cause prices to rise from that prevailing 12-18 months back.

"Prices are expected to rise 1.3-1.4x from current levels over the next 4-5 years, or 4-5% on a CAGR basis," MOFSL said based on interaction with five companies.

Domestic real estate market is showing signs of steady recovery with both residential and commercial property segments recording healthy growth in the July-September quarter. According to real estate consultancy firm Anarock, housing sales had jumped over two-fold year-on-on during the July-September period at 62,800 units across seven major cities on better demand driven by low mortgage rates and hiring in IT/ITeS sector.

One of the main reasons that led to this sharp recovery is attributed to affordability seen in property prices due to multiple factors such as discounts offered by developers, lower stamp duty and low interest rate offered by financial institutions. However, this has been observed to have reduced in the recently concluded September quarter. Few prime residential markets such as Chennai, Hyderabad and Kolkata have seen marginal price increase in recent months.

According to Anuj Puri, chairman of Anarock Group, residential prices have already increased by 2-3 % in many markets in the past one year.

"Prices had remained largely stagnant over the past 3 years. Now, with significantly increased demand coupled with rising input costs, the price stalemate has ended. Future price increases will depend on factors and will likely be more pronounced in high-demand low-supply locations, and in projects by branded developers," said Puri.

Jubilant Foodworks Q2 profit zooms 58% to ₹122 cr y-o-y

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

PANDEMIC-HIT food service company Jubilant Foodworks Ltd, which holds the franchise of Domino's Pizza and Dunkin Donuts in India, has shown strong comeback in the second quarter of 2021-22 with a 58% year-on-year jump in standalone net profit. The net profit of the company in the quarter ended September was ₹122 crore against ₹77 crore in the same quarter last year.

On quarter-on-quarter basis, the profit in second quarter was almost double that of in the first quarter, where it posted a profit of ₹62.55 crore.

The revenue during the quarter saw a year-on-year increase of 37% to ₹1,100 crore compared to ₹805 crore last year. Sequentially, the company posted a 25% increase in sales.

Jubilant Foodworks managed to improve its net profit margins in the second quarter despite a 22% increase in expenses year-on-year. Its net profit margin improved by 150 basis points to 11% in Q2 of this fiscal against the year-ago period. On a half-yearly basis, the company's net profit at ₹184 crore was 43 times more than that of the last year. "The Covid-19 situation across the country affected the normal dine-in operations of the restaurants resulting in lower sales. However the company has taken various measures to protect profit margins," the auditors said in the report.

L&T Finance net profit falls 10% to ₹223 cr

New Delhi: L&T Finance Holdings (LTFH) on Wednesday reported a 10% decline in its consolidated net profit to ₹223 crore for the second quarter ended September 2021. The non-banking financial company had posted a net profit of ₹248 crore in the corresponding period of the previous financial year. Its total income during July-September 2021 fell to ₹3,134.46 crore as against ₹3,508.91 crore in the year-ago period, LTFH said in a regulatory filing. Among the market leaders in farm equipment finance, two-wheeler finance and micro loans, LTFH said it witnessed the highest-ever disbursement in rural finance during the reported quarter, while retail disbursements grew 55% quarter-on-quarter. In the second quarter of FY22, all LTFH businesses witnessed robust disbursement momentum. Rural finance business saw the highest-ever Q2 disbursement at ₹4,987 crore, a jump of 51% q-o-q, it said.

Aus pacer Pattinson retires from international cricket

Australian fast bowler James Pattinson on Wednesday retired from international cricket after realising that he won't be in the reckoning for the Ashes series due to fitness issues. The 31-year-old, who has played 21 Tests and 15 ODIs, though will continue to play domestic cricket. His last Test was against New Zealand in Sydney in January 2020.

WOOD-STOCK HITS

The Englishman borrows skill of hitting from golf and baseball to redefine the art of batting in T20 cricket

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN
@Chennai

Liam Livingstone is a perfect example of modern power-hitter

ONE of the most seminal moments in modern T20I history came on a balmy April evening at Eden Gardens in Kolkata. That was in 2016. Requiring 19 to win the 2016 World Cup, Carlos 'remember the name' Brathwaite hit 6, 6, 6, 6 off Ben Stokes to win the event for the West Indies. Both Stokes and Brathwaite, though, went back a long way but not in the way one would expect. They were both coached for a period of time by Julian Wood, a 'power-hitting coach'. Wood, who used to play for Hampshire before retiring, is one of the most well known coaches in the industry (he almost had an IPL gig last year). Coaches like Wood are constantly in demand these days because they do what they advertise: teach players the art of boundary-hitting.

This art is like bitcoin in the T20 format because teams who hit the most boundaries win more games. This is backed by data: 80% of all T20 matches are won by teams who hit more boundaries.

When did Wood, a 52-year-old who runs an academy in England, decide to take it as a full-time profession? "Around 12 years ago, I was in America," he tells this daily. "Purely by accident, I bumped into a guy who introduced me to the hitting coach of the Texas Rangers (a Major League Baseball side). These guys know nothing about cricket but they do know about hitting a ball. I spent a lot of time with him. He invited me to spend some time at the Rangers.

"At the same time, T20 was evolving and players were after more power. They were asking this question: 'how to generate more power?'. With T20 players wanting more access to the boundaries, I started putting stuff together and I could see where the game was going. The language was changing." The language, he says, has completely changed in the last decade. "The phrase 'power-hitter'. You know... ball exit speed, launch angle, bat speed, generating power through the hips," he explains

That, more than anything else, has changed the way people strike a big ball. Sure, the sport has always had what can be termed as 'power hitters'. But they are now encouraged to generate parts of the body, including the hips. The one modern player who is truly elite at it is Liam Livingstone, another of Wood's products. Wood gives a demonstration as to the work he did with the England batter. "I use weighted balls, weighted bats... what I do with those guys is... I connect their hips... I have bungee (rope) on their hips. Then I will start with weighted balls and weighted bats, Then change that with light balls and light bats. So you have got power which is the heavy staff and speed which is your light base. He talks about his hip a lot so we make his hips very powerful."

Wood's various drills on YouTube where he takes batters through a step-by-step guide is a must watch because of the way he breaks it down. Bungees and weighted balls aren't the only tools he uses to try and chisel a batter into the best boundary hitter they can be. He uses a radar to measure stuff like 'ball exit speed, hand speed'. "I measure ball exit speed of a T... when the ball is bowled, the ball has energy because it is moving. When you hit the ball of a T, then you have to supply all the power, all the energy. The first thing I do with a player is I measure their ball exit speed of a T. We go from there. When I coach players, they will swing 20% of the balls they hit, I want them to swing as hard as they can. I don't care where the ball goes, from there I can drag it back. I think players train and play in this 50-65% comfort zone a lot of the time because it's comfortable. What I do is I trey to create a new comfort zone. Once you do that, their ceiling goes up. Then you just need the consistency."

Interestingly, he got this coaching methodology after watching golfer Bryson DeChambeau, who won last year's US Open. "He was swinging that club as hard as he can," Wood says. "He just hits the ball into the net, he isn't fussed where that ball goes. He just wants the ball to leave the club at 150 miles per hour. I looked at that, I have used it and the results are phenomenal by training like that and the players feel that and that's the key thing. What you are doing is that you are creating new levels they didn't know they could go to."

From an Indian perspective, he has worked extensively with Prithvi Shaw. And that's the other thing about power hitting, it can be mastered even by players who aren't what you would call 'big players'. "You get some players, the big guys, like your Brathwaites and (Kieron) Pollards... they just stand there and smash it. They are big, strong guys. Players look to develop power from different areas."

Full story: newindianexpress.com

T20 WORLD CUP

LAST CHANCE SALOON FOR TEAMS IN GROUP B

As the final round of Group B matches gets underway on Thursday, there is a possibility for every team to make it to the Super 12s. Even Papua New Guinea, who are at the bottom of the group, also have an outside chance to advance. There is no room for error for the likes of Bangladesh, Scotland and Oman as it is now or never for them.

B'desh v PNG | Live on Star Sports 1 @ 3:30 PM

Bangladesh started their campaign with a shock defeat against Scotland and laboured to a hard-fought win against Oman. On paper, the fixture against Papua New Guinea is the easiest of the three. However, the Tigers cannot be complacent against a weaker opponent. They'll have to improve their scoring rate as the net run rate could come into play to decide the table toppers.

Having lost both their games, debutants Papua New Guinea have nothing to lose in their last group match. This makes them dangerous opponents. They can use this experience to plan for the future as well and that will be sufficient encouragement to give it their all on Thursday. The team will have to produce a collective performance to stand any chance against a side like Bangladesh.

Scotland v Oman | Live on Star Sports 1 @ 7:30 PM

For Scotland, who have won two games on the trot, the equation is simple — beat Oman and finish first on the table. Against PNG, the likes of Richie Berrington and Mathew Cross were impressive with the bat while Josh Davey spearheaded their bowling. Since the co-hosts are also looking to seal qualification, this contest sets itself nicely and Scotland will have to be at their very best.

At one stage in their last match, Oman looked like they had a chance to knock Bangladesh out of the competition. Now, they are fighting with both Scotland and Bangladesh to go through. A win will secure qualification while a defeat would mean that they will have to rely on PNG to beat Bangladesh for them to advance. They will also have to maintain a good net run rate which could come into play.

WIESE'S KNOCK IN NAMIBIA WIN

ABU DHABI: In a sensational display of power-hitting, **David Wiese** (top) conjured up a 66-run knock to fashion Namibia's six-wicket win over the Netherlands in a crucial first round Group A game of the T20 World Cup on Wednesday. Chasing 165 to stay alive in the competition, debutants Namibia were stuttering at 52 for three after nine overs but Wiese single-handedly sank the Dutch side. **Brief scores:** Netherlands 164/4 in 20 ovs (O'Dowd 70) lost to Namibia 166/4 in 19 ovs (Wiese 66 n.o.).

HASARANGA, NISSANKA HELP SL BEAT IRELAND

ABU DHABI: Wanindu Hasaranga and Pathum Nissanka hit scintillating half-centuries as Sri Lanka recovered from a top-order collapse to post 71/7 against Ireland in a Group A first round match of the T20 World Cup on Wednesday. Opting to bowl, left-arm medium-pacer Josh Little (4/23) picked up two wickets at the start to leave Sri Lanka tottering at 8/3 but Hasaranga (71) came up with a classy knock under pressure to rescue the former champions. **Brief scores:** Sri Lanka 171/7 in 20 ovs (Nissanka 61, Hasaranga 71, Little 4/23) beat Ireland 101 in 18.3 ovs (Theekshana 3/17).

Opener Rohit Sharma scored 60 in India's second warm-up match on Wednesday

Pandya conundrum ahead of Pak meeting

VENKATA KRISHNA B @Chennai

IF Ravi Shastri happens to sit at an auction table with the India's 15-man squad and one more spot to fill, how much would he go for a batting all-rounder? The chances are he would not even hesitate to spend the remaining purse on one. As India prepared for their opening match of the T20 World Cup against Pakistan by beating Australia on Wednesday in a warm-up fixture, they looked every bit good to be considered among the favourites for the tournament. But three days ahead of their match against their arch-rivals, they are still some distance away from finding what will be their right combination thanks to the uncertainty around Hardik Pandya's ability to bowl. If he is fit to bowl, Pandya could offer them more options, namely allowing India to field three spinners. If not, India may be forced to play only two on pitches that are slow.

On Wednesday, India showed how desperate they are in search of a sixth bowling option as they even tried Virat Kohli for a couple of overs, in a match where Rohit Sharma captained the side. After using only five bowlers in their first warm-up fixture against England, against Australia India used seven bowlers. But Pandya wasn't amongst them. The team management believes Pandya will be able to bowl during the course of the tournament, and his ability to hit-off from the word-go means, he is being looked at as a finisher along with Ravindra Jadeja. But even his form with the bat hasn't been that encouraging and with Ishan Kishan in the mix, it could get interesting for two reasons.

India play four of their five matches in Dubai, a venue where short-boundaries will be in play as they are set to keep the centre-wicket for the latter stages. As was evident during the IPL, teams have to be smarter with left-right combinations. With Rishabh Pant being the only left-hander in the top six, Ishan can provide India with another option that will make them more dynamic. And two, his big-hitting abilities are second to none and can do enough damage even if stays for just four overs.

While India did contemplate playing Ishan ahead of Suryakumar Yadav, the latter is seen as a trump-card in the middle, one who could even take the attack to opposition even if the team loses early wickets. Plus, being a 360 player, he offers something unique. That said, if there is some level of certainty, it is in the batting line-up. Rohit, KL Rahul, Kohli, Suryakumar and Pant are all but certain to be in the XI against Pakistan on Sunday. In the bowling front too, India have a decision to make. Apart from Jasprit Bumrah and Ravindra Jadeja, India are likely to take a call on the others more on a match-by-match basis.

Brief scores: Australia 152/5 in 20 ovs (Smith 57, Ashwin 2/8) lost to India 153/2 in 17.5 ovs (Rohit 60 retd, Rahul 39).

YEH DIL MAANGE MO

Title hopefuls Liverpool and PSG enjoyed big wins. Here is a look at Tuesday's Champions League action

SALAH AT IT AGAIN

Is there a more in-form footballer in the world? On Tuesday, Mohamed Salah added another brace to take the number of goals this season to 12 from 11 games. He is a cheat code at the moment and his constant movement kept Atletico on their toes. As long as he is fit, the Reds will believe.

MESSI ON THE MOVE

The Parisiens followed that fine win over Manchester City with an impressive come-from-behind victory over RB Leipzig. Thanks in no small part to new signing Lionel Messi, whose double, including a panenka, settled the encounter. He's not exactly struggled but the goals haven't exactly flowed so this was a welcome sight.

Results: Group A: Club Brugge 1-5 Manchester City, PSG 3-2 RB Leipzig; Group B: Atletico Madrid 2-3 Liverpool, Porto 1-0 AC Milan; Group C: Ajax 4 -0 Borussia Dortmund, Besiktas 1-4 Sporting Lisbon; Group D: Shakhtar Donetsk 0-5 Real Madrid, Inter Milan 3-1 Sheriff.

EXPRESS READ

Tennis stars urged to get jabs or miss Aus Open

CANBERRA: Elite tennis players should get vaccinated against Covid-19 or risk missing the Australian Open in January, Australian officials said. Some players, including men's No. 1 Novak Djokovic, have advocated that the decision to get the vaccine should be a personal choice. But Australia's health minister Greg Hunt said the rules were straightforward: everyone arriving in the country needed to be double-vaccinated. "Our rules are very clear, they apply to everyone without fear or favour," he said. Djokovic, who has won the Australian Open title a record nine times, hasn't confirmed whether he has been vaccinated for Covid-19.

Pandey to lead Karnataka in SMA Trophy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

MANISH Pandey is set to lead Karnataka in the upcoming Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, which starts from November 4 in Guwahati. The Karnataka State Cricket Association, on Wednesday, announced a 20-member strong squad.

Karnataka, which has won the tournament twice so far, will be without KL Rahul. He is on national team duty for the T20 World Cup.

Despite his unavailability, they have a solid batting line-up, which comprises Pandey, Mayank Agarwal, Devdutt Padikkal, Karun Nair, Sharath BR and others. All these players have it in them to win matches on their own with the bat. Their spin department also oozes class with Krishnappa Gowtham and Shreyas Gopal being their key men.

However, the pace department will be without Abhimanyu Mithun, who has announced retirement. Prasidh Krishna will have to shoulder major resposibility with Ronit More not finding a place in the squad. And Fazal R Khaleel, chairman of the state senior selection committee is not worried about the pace unit.

"Mithun not being there is going to have an impact, but we have good bowlers. Prasidh will be the number one pacer. Also, there is Vyshak, who has bowled really well in the recently concluded leagues. We also have Prateek Jain, who has been around for some seasons.... There is a youngster in the form of Vidyadhar Patil too. So, there are good fast bowling options, and I do not see the pace department as a concern," said Khaleel.

SQUAD: Manish Pandey (C), Mayank Agarwal, Devdutt Padikkal, Siddharth KV, Rohan Kadam, Anirudha A Joshi, Abhinav Manohar, Karun Nair, Sharath BR (w), Nihal Ullal (w), Shreyas Gopal, Gowtham K, Suchith J, Pravin Dubey, Cariappa KC, Prasidh M Krishna, Prateek Jain, Vyshak V, Darshan M B and Vidyadhar Patil. **Head coach: Yere K Goud.** Bowling coach: Sreenath Arvind.

Hosts on song in swimming junior nationals

ENS/AGENCIES @Bengaluru

IT was all Karnataka on the second day of the 37th Sub Junior and 47th Junior National Aquatic Championships in Bengaluru. Of the five records broken on Wednesday, four belonged to the hosts. Karnataka's Ridhima Veerendra Kumar also shone brightly as she created a new record in the 100m backstroke for group II girls with a timing of time of 1:04.87. She broke Maana Patel's record of 1:05.30, set seven years ago.

Karnataka's Aneesh S Gowda also erased Aryan Nehra's record of 4:00.91 in the 400m freestyle group I boys as he clocked 4:00.11 at the Basavangudi Aquatic Centre. Karnataka also rewrote the 4x100m medley group I boys and girls record respectively as well.

SELECT RESULTS: 400m free Group I Boys: 1 Aneesh S Gowda (4:00.11) KAR (NR), 2 Shoan Ganguly (4:03.69) KAR, 3 Vedaant Madhavan (4:04.25) MAH; 400m free Group I Girls: 1 Aanya Wala (4:34.54) MAH, 2 Vritti Agarwal (4:38.60) TEL, 3 Shakthi Balakrishnan (4:39.58) TNSA; 200m IM Group IV Boys: 1. Kabilan T (2:46.94) TNSA, 2 Atharv Pal Singh Rathore (2:50.37) KAR, 3 Vihaan Chaturvedi (2:55.34) MAH; 100m backstroke Group II Girls: 1 Ridhima Veerendra Kumar (1:04.87) KAR (NR), 2 Shalini R Dixit (1:08.63) KAR, 3 Sri Nitya Sagi (1:10.14) TEL; 100m butterfly Group I Girls: 1 Astha Choudhury (1:02.71) ASM (NR), 2 Apeksha Fernandes (1:02.81) MAH, 3 Nina Venkatesh (1:03.78) KAR; 200m butterfly Group II Boys: 1 Deva Ganesh N (2:17.90) AP, 2 Niranjan Karthik B (2:20.78) KAR, 3 Aarush Zala (2:21.63) GUJ

WINTER SPORTS

Shiva relishing new role as coach, hopes to take luge team to 2026 Games

INDRANEEL DAS @Chennai

EVERY Winter Olympics, sports fans in our country usually warm up to some obscure sports played by lesser-known players. Frenetic google searches on the sports and players follow. If one is lucky, sporadic mentions about the athletes would pop up here and there. That reflects the ignorance of such sports in our country. One name, however, breaks that infamous trend: luger and six-time Winter Olympian Shiva Keshavan.

When Shiva laments about the conditions that is affecting the winter sports in the country, it is nothing unusual. As of now no Indian athlete has qualified for the 2022 Winter Games in China.

In fact this neglect and official apathy only motivates him to help sport prosper. There is temptation of making a comeback because it "would be easy for him to qualify", but that is not what he is dreaming about right now. "Qualifying is not something I look forward to anymore. I want to get better," he said from Sochi, where he is training some Argentine athletes. Shiva is devoting more time to coaching and is set to coach India's luge team of seven in Sochi. "I will be training the development group," he said. Sponsors and funding are something he is finding it more and more difficult to get. "It's not easy to get funding but we are managing through some CSR funds and even the Indian Olympic Association is helping us."

Shiva is happy to lend a helping hand to some young lugers who could once represent India at the Winter Olympics. All their ages are between 13 to 16. They would be ready by 2026. "The idea is to help a full luge team to qualify in 2026 Winter Games," said the high performance director of the Luge Federation of India. That means he is looking at two men's and women's teams each and two doubles. "We are currently conducting a national talent scouting program with the aim of sending a complete 10-member contingent for the 2026 Winter Olympic Games. This winter, seven young athletes will undergo international training and compete in the junior world cup circuit and junior world championships.

"The decision to retire was a painful one," the 40-year-old said. "I am training athletes who are older than me so I don't think age is a factor. Knowing that the qualification system is easier than before, that there is nobody else who would rise to the occasion, and that I could have continued to get better results for India, makes the decision even more heart-breaking." However, what's irking Shiva is the lack of support and recognition for Winter sports in the country. "At the same time, continuing to compete after there has been no progress or improvement in the support system from sports organisations and government for the last 25 years has become impossible.

"I took the decision to quit because I realised we need people who are genuinely interested in sport to push the future generations of athletes to do well despite the obstacles that our own system has created."

Full story: newindianexpress.com

US KIDS TO GET COVID SHOTS STARTING NOV

Including children in 5-11 age group will expand beneficiary list by 2.8 crores; drive a must for population immunity

COVID

WASHINGTON: The US would rollout vaccines for children aged 5-11 from next month, the White House said on Wednesday. The drive would make 28 million more Americans eligible for shots. "Our planning efforts mean that we will be ready to begin getting shots in arms in the days following a final CDC recommendation," the White House said, referring to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Drugmaker Pfizer applied for authorization in this age group earlier this month, and the question is set to be debated by two expert panels. The first, convened by the Food and Drug Administration, will meet next week, and the second, convened by the CDC, will meet November 2-3, with the agency expected to make its recommendation soon thereafter. During a clinical trial, children in the 5-11 age group received a two-dose regimen of 10 micrograms, compared with 30 micrograms for older age groups. The shots were given 21 days apart.

The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine has been granted full FDA approval for those aged 16 and up, and the FDA in May authorized its emergency use in children aged 12 to 15. Experts say vaccinating children is essential to helping achieve population immunity against the disease. While younger children are less likely to develop severe cases, they can still become sick and transmit the virus to the general population.Vaccine confidence in the United States has risen in recent months. As of Wednesday, 77.1 percent of the currently eligible population aged 12 and up had received one or more doses of Covid vaccine.

Restrictions in Russia

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday ordered a nationwide weeklong paid holiday to curb Covid infections in Europe's worst affected country and urged Russians to get vaccinated. Putin approved a government plan to declare a non-working week across the country from October 30 as Russia registered a record 1,028 deaths in a single day. "The main aim is to protect the lives and health of our citizens," the 69-year-old Kremlin chief said during a televised meeting.

He said the severity of the outbreak was linked to the country's vaccination rates that are "unfortunately" low. Infection rates have soared in recent weeks amid a stalled campaign, with only 35% of the country fully inoculated despite several widely available vaccines.

Call for curbs in UK, too

Healthcare leaders urged the British government on Wednesday to reinstate some coronavirus restrictions to ease pressures on hospitals because of spiralling case numbers. But ministers remain opposed to reintroducing any curbs, arguing the situation is still far better than earlier this year and the country is learning to "live with the virus". A total of 223 deaths from Covid-19 were registered on Tuesday — the highest 24-hour toll since March — while there is mounting concern at daily case rates.

BATTLE READY

A dummy dog wearing a mask with cameras and a transmission device displayed at the 22nd worldwide exhibition of internal State security (MILIPOL) in Villepinte, north of Paris on Tuesday | AFP

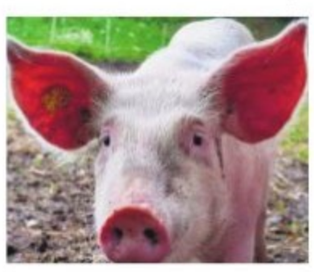
GIANT LEAP

Pig-to-human transplants come a step closer with new test

MEDICINE

SCIENTISTS attached a pig's kidney to a cadaver and watched it begin to work, marking a small step in the quest to one day use animal organs for life-saving transplants.

Pigs have been the most recent research focus to address the organ shortage, but among the hurdles: A sugar in pig cells, foreign to the human body, causes immediate organ rejection. The kidney for this experiment came from a gene-edited animal, engineered to eliminate that sugar and avoid an immune system attack.



Surgeons attached the pig kidney to a pair of large blood vessels outside the body of a deceased recipient so they could observe it for two days. The kidney did what it was supposed to do — filter waste and produce urine — and didn't trigger rejection. "It had absolutely normal function," said Dr. Robert Montgomery, who led the surgical team last month at NYU Langone Health. "It didn't have this immediate rejection that we have worried about.

This research is "a significant step," said Dr. Andrew Adams of the University of Minnesota Medical School, who was not part of the work. It will reassure patients, researchers and regulators "that we're moving in the right direction." The dream of animal-to-human transplants — or xenotransplantation — goes back to the 17th century with stumbling attempts to use animal blood for transfusions. By the 20th century, surgeons were attempting transplants of organs from baboons into humans, notably Baby Fae, a dying infant, who lived 21 days with a baboon heart.

Pigs have advantages over apes. They are produced for food, so using them for organs raises fewer ethical concerns. Pigs have large litters, short gestation periods and organs comparable to humans. Pig heart valves have been used successfully for decades in humans. The blood thinner heparin is derived from pig intestines. Pig skin grafts are used on burns and Chinese surgeons have used pig corneas to restore sight.

In the NYU case, researchers kept a deceased woman's body on a ventilator after her family agreed to the experiment. The woman had wished to donate her organs, but they weren't suitable for it.

The advance is a win for Revivicor, a subsidiary of United Therapeutics, the company that engineered the pig and its cousins, a herd of 100 raised in tightly controlled conditions. The pigs lack a gene that produces alpha-gal, the sugar that provokes an immediate attack from the immune system. Raising pigs to be organ donors feels wrong to some people, but it may grow more acceptable if concerns about animal welfare can be addressed, experts said.

FACT OF THE MATTER

NO VACCINATION, NO EDUCATION

VACCINE

The University of Cape Town will require all staff and students to be vaccinated from January, its council said on Wednesday. Details of the plan are expected in December, making Africa's top-ranking university the first to require proof of vaccination in order to access the campus. South Africa launched electronic vaccination certificates this month and is debating whether to make inoculation mandatory for certain events. Only fully jabbed football fans were allowed to attend the match between South Africa and Ghana last week. Two major companies — financial services group Sanlam and medical aid provider Discovery — have meanwhile asked all staff to be immunised by 2022. The University said it had asked the executive to "develop the operational details" for approval in December.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS City

Bengaluru Express

READ SHARE FOLLOW
newindianexpress.com
Mail us: bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com

21.10.2021
THURSDAY

DAY'S DIARY

To the Crimean War

On this day in 1854, Florence Nightingale and a staff of 38 women volunteer nurses that she trained, were sent to the Ottoman Empire

CONTRIBUTION

Florence Nightingale's most famous contribution came during the Crimean War, which became her central focus when reports got back to Britain about the horrific conditions for the wounded

REDUCED DEATH RATE

Nightingale spent every waking minute caring for the soldiers — most of whom were dying from typhoid and cholera than war injuries

LADY WITH THE LAMP

In the evenings, she moved through the dark hallways carrying a lamp while making her rounds. The soldiers took to calling her 'The lady with the lamp'

Meghana Raj to make a comeback

PG 4

The client came with the idea to make a power suit out of the saree for a function. So, we made a pair of flared trousers, crop top and blazer to complete the outfit
Nagashree Sriram, designer

It is difficult to work with some sarees if they are old because when you pull it in a certain way, it might tear. Then you have to use the leftover material
Aishwarya Iyengar, designer

Six yards of creativity

From power suits, blazers to gowns, sarees are being converted into stylish Indo-Western outfits

Power suit design by Nagashree Sriram

Pleated dress by Nagashree Gururaj

Blazer dress by Aishwarya Iyengar

ANILA KURIAN

THERE'S said to be a certain grace and elegance when one wears a saree. But what happens when that same saree is converted into an Indo-Western outfit? Most often, that becomes a show-stopper outfit. Perhaps that's why more and more Bengalureans are upcycling the six-yard outfits these days.

Converting either sarees that's been passed down generations or buying new ones to be designed as a whole new outfit, designers have been coming up with very interesting outfits. Designer Nagashree Sriram of Udupu Designer Studio in Jayanagar recently created a power suit using a pink and golden Kanchipuram saree for a client. She says, "The client wanted to create something different for a function and she came with the idea to make a power suit out of the saree. So, we made a pai of flared trousers, crop top and blazer to complete the outfit."

Sriram says that Kanchipuram sarees give it a unique look for the person wearing it to stand out in the crowd. "Since it's six yards long, unless you're making a lehenga, there will be materials leftover. Sometimes people get extra kurtas made out of it or do matching outfits as mother-daughter type of outfits," she adds.

Old wedding sarees is an haute favourite for upcycling, says designer Nagashree Gururaj of Pixie Rental Studio. "The wedding sarees that either you've worn or that belongs to an older generation just sits in the closet for a long period of time. People don't really want to discard it, so they use it to make dresses, gowns or kurtas," says Guruaj.

Although upcycling sarees into other outfits isn't a brand new concept, Guruaj feels that people have turned nostalgic after the pandemic. "I had a client come in with a saree which belonged to her grandmother who passed away during the pandemic. So, she wanted to make something else using the saree. Similarly, there's a lot of sentimental value when people bring old sarees to be designed," she says.

Working with Kanchipuram sarees seems to be a favourite with designers, but materials like chiffon, georgette and cotton-silk blend also have their purposes. Designer and content creator Aishwarya Iyengar loves using these materials to not just bring out a new outfit but also use them for creating accessories under her brand called Earth Up. She explains, "It is difficult to work with some sarees if they are old because when you pull it in a certain way, it might tear. Then you have to use the leftover material. But, when you know the quality, you can always use them as linings, pocket sleeves, buttons and so on. You can always create accessories with them as well."

Using parts of the saree to complete an outfit is also a way Iyengar works. She says, "Reworking on a saree has its pros and cons. Since each piece is unique, you cannot create five different sizes of it in one saree. But it helps the wearer keep the original design of it and wear something others probably don't have," she says.

Designer Bassam Osman of Studio Bassam says saree blazers are very popular among foreigners. "In India, when you recreate an outfit using a saree, people will immediately know its origins. But for a foreigner it becomes an exotic piece on its own," he says, adding that he created a blazer for his clients using Kanchipuram saree.

A still from the film

Real TO Reel

This short film aims to address mental health issues among the LGBTQ+ community through parody, fun and emotions

EXPRESS FEATURES

INSOMNIA, anxiety, loneliness, depression — these are not just mental health issues, but a personification of the characters in the short film titled *Mind Mera Mind*. Directed by Harsh Agarwal, the film is a take on how the LGBTQ+ community deals with mental health issues, especially how homosexuals are affected by different social elements. The film was released on October 8, to mark World Mental Health day and as part of extending support to the community. According to Agarwal, the story took shape and went on the floors in Bengaluru.

The film personifies various mental health issues which protagonist Prateek, a homosexual, goes through. Insomnia appeared as a handsome guy who kept Prateek (played by content creator Raghav Sharma) awake at night, and anxiety appeared as the neighbour aunty (played by Harshini Misra) who loves to ask uncomfortable questions. Several other characteristics like self-doubt, depression, loneliness, and toxic masculinity appear from time to time to haunt Prateek.

Agarwal unfolds the way Prateek deals with the web of complexities in the short film. "I had this story idea in my mind for a long time, but it took shape when I came to Bengaluru in June 2021. The initial set of sequences were shot here and the remaining in Delhi. I wanted to address the mental stress among the LGBTQ+ community through unconventional storytelling with parody and fun. I wanted to personify each mental health problem with a character that haunts a homosexual who struggles with his sexuality," says Agarwal, who is also an LGBTQ+ activist.

When asked if the story is inspired by personal events, the director says, "Every crew member I've worked on the film has infused a sense of personal touch. Some of the dialogues in the film actually reflect the instances I went through as an individual of the LGBTQ+ community. Moreover, my films are not advocacy tools. I don't want to preach and pivot on narratives. I am just a storyteller," says Agarwal, whose previous directorial was a short film titled *Vaidya*.

With creative freedom often coming at loggerheads with different sentiments and communities, Agarwal too encountered the same. He mentions that he is always attacked with criticism from the LGBTQ+ community for not casting actors who belong to the community. "Yes, I have always been criticised for it. But casting, for me, is very intuitive, and that follows the due process. Interestingly, I was surprised to find actors ready to play characters like a homosexual without qualms. Having said that, *Mind Mera Mind*, also consists of two actors from the LGBTQ+ community," says Agarwal, who is currently pursuing Masters in Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA.

Mind Mera Mind, produced by Lotus Visual, in association with bi-dating app Grindr, is available on YouTube.

KNOW YOUR CITY

Arun Prasad, city-based history researcher, unravels interesting facts about Bengaluru in this weekly quiz series. So it's time for you to find out how familiar you are with the city, beyond its heritage buildings, IT parks and the pub culture.

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Know Your City Quiz'**

Correct answers and names of first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE* on Thursday.

THE RIGHT ANSWERS ARE

1. Dickenson Road; 2. Bhagwan Mahaveer Jain Road; 3. Cubbon Road

FIRST THREE TO GET IT RIGHT

1. Prathap VP
2. Sowmya T
3. Chakravarthy D

INSIDE

IDENTIFY BREAST CANCER SYMPTOMS

3

Connecting artisans

After a tough year, artisans are showcasing their work to revive their business

Artisan Rajiben Vankar. (Right) Bun Kar Bihar

EXPRESS FEATURES

Artisans in the country have had one of the toughest times since the pandemic. A majority of their stocks are yet to be sold and they could barely make a living. Many exhibitions were also cancelled, adding to the list of worries the artisans already go through.

In order to support artisans and help rejuvenate the craft sector, the inaugural Mudita Makers Market is taking place at Bangalore International Centre this week. This is done in association with Creative Dignity's initiative for offline events called Artisan Direct. With a total of 20 stalls, artisans from Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Bengal and Gujarat will be showcasing their textiles and artefacts.

Oriole Henry, one of the volunteers who put together the event, says that this initiative is to help the artisans finish their backlog of items from last year. "The exhibition is a way for artisans to make business relationships with other designers and marketers in the country. We're also helping them set up their online stores so that they can sell their items throughout the year and also make offline connections through this," she explains.

With a focus to celebrate India's textiles, paintings, durries and embroidery work, the BIC space is also set to be decorated in a grand manner. Henry explains, "We want to not just showcase the different artisanal products but also display their hard work."

From Karnataka, there will be interesting banana fibre bags, Siddi quilts, Navalgund durries and handmade bags and baskets using sustainable resources.

Visitors can dive into a sea of fabric with block printing from Ajark, fifty-two motifs of Baavanbuti weavers of Bihar, soft Bengal muslin, woollen Kullu shawls and more. "We're also promoting a 'go green' initiative which will include sustainable products like naturally-dyed indigenous cotton, Himalayan organic rajma, wild honey and hemp shoes," she says.

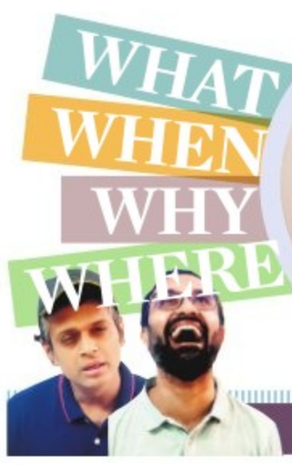
One of the interesting artisans visiting is Rajiben Vankar from Gujarat who upcycles products from waste plastic. "We're actually asking visitors to bring maybe a plastic item so they can see for themselves how Vankar converts that into a fabric. This fabric is then used to make bags, baskets etc," adds Henry.

The event has been funded by Balaji's Antiques and Collectibles and individuals. The artisans will receive 100 per cent of all the sales directly with no fees to the organisers.

"This event is not just a one-off event where we help the artisans and move to the next problem. We want this to be an on-going relationship and also a space for them to be able to build their business using online and offline means. We're promoting all their work on our social media handle, and hopefully, this exhibition will only continue to grow their business," says Henry.

Mudita Makers Market will be held at Bangalore International Centre on October 21-23, 10 am to 7 pm. Entry is free.

WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE



DEEPAVALI TREAT

From regional namkeens to handmade sweets, here are a variety of festive delicacies to choose from. It also includes namak para, assorted handmade mathi, murukku, gluten-free rose barfi, badam halwa cakes and more. **To order, visit** Living Food website.

WOMEN IN MUSIC

Based on the book *Women of the Records* by Vikram Sampath which has music mastered by Michael Graves, join Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw and Ricky Kej in the panel discussion on women in music. **When:** Oct 23, 6 pm **Details:** Bangalore International Centre

FESTIVE HAMPERS

Enjoy a wide range of handcrafted festive hampers. It includes Deepavali Delight, Sweet Dreams, Delightful Trio, The Box of Love, and Artisanal hamper, containing personalised gourmet goodies. **Where:** The Hebbal Cafe, Courtyard by Marriott **To order:** Call 9606482934

SUNRISE VIBES

Experience the Skandagiri sunrise, 70 km from Bengaluru. With a few pickup points around 11 pm within the city, trek the hill and return in time for lunch the next day. **When:** Oct 22 onwards **Details:** bookmyshow.com

Student Showcase

Artflute presents 'Ungallery-Emerge 2021', an online student showcase designed with an aim to create a platform for young artists to increase their exposure amongst potential art enthusiasts and collectors, young and veterans. There are works of painting, drawing, printmaking collage and more. **When:** Till Oct 31 **Details:** artflute.com

Theatre Festival

As part of the 17th year anniversary, Ranga Shankara is organising The Ranga Shankara Theatre Festival. Spanning over five days, five plays will be staged including *Kantha Matu Kantha, Lock Down, Jhund, Kaamarupigal and Hunkaro*. Also catch some interesting ancillary events like short-plays, music, among others. **When:** Oct 27-31, **Tickets:** bookmyshow.com

Power yoga

Join Attakkalari Connect Yoga classes online to learn something new. The live dance class will be taught by Attakkalari faculty and you can learn from the comforts of your home. **When:** Oct 20-27 **Details:** bookmyshow.com

Dessert Haven

For three days, Foodhall will be hosting Magnolia Bakery at 1MG, Lido Mall. They will be showing cupcakes, Tres Leches pudding, brownies, cookie jars and Deepavali hampers. **When:** Oct 22-24, 10 am onwards **Details:** 7400444525

Fashion Deal

Catch The Mystery of the Patola, a fashion exhibition-cum-sale, featuring double ikats. Created by crafts designer and handloom revivalist Bela Sanghvi, the wide range of displays includes fabrics woven by double ikats. **Where:** Ffolio, Vittal Mallya Road **When:** Oct 21

QUICK FIX

What's cooking

IN YOUR KITCHEN? We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com.

KABUL CHANA USLI

INGREDIENTS

- **Chana:** 200 g
- **Grated coconut, raw mango:** 50 g, each
- **Green chilli:** 6
- **Curry leaves:** Handful
- **Mustard seeds:** 3/4 tsp
- **Asafoetida:** 1/4 tsp
- **Oil** ■ **Salt** as required

METHOD

- Soak chana overnight. Wash it next morning. Add required salt to it and pressure-cook. Once cooked, drain the water and keep it aside. Blend chilli and curry leaves coarsely.
- Heat oil in a pan. Add mustard seeds and the blended mix one after the other and saute.
- Add cooked chana, coconut and mango one after the other and saute for two minutes.
- Sprinkle asafoetida and saute for another three minutes. Once everything is combined well, bring down from the stove and serve.

SOUND BOARD

BHASKAR BOSE

Bhaskar Bose is an accountant by profession but detective by passion. From missing bodies from graveyards to murders on a film set, Bhaskar Bose and his police sidekick Bikesh solve each case in their inimitable style

- On Spotify

BANTER WITH SAPNAP AND KARTHE RANVEER SHOW

Ranveer Allahbadia aka BeerBiceps brings you #TheRanveerShow where each episode has been designed to bring you some kind of value adds. It will charge you up in some way.

- On Google Podcast

THE MINDSET MENTOR

The podcast is designed for anyone desiring motivation, direction, and focus in life. Host Rob Dial has amassed a passionate following of over 3 million social media followers, including business professionals, entrepreneurs, and small business owners with his expertise and passion for helping motivate people to become the best version of themselves.

- On Google Podcast

STUFF YOU SHOULD KNOW

If you've ever wanted to know about champagne, satanism, the Stonewall Uprising, chaos theory, LSD, El Nino, true crime and Rosa Parks, then look no further. Josh and Chuck have you covered.

- On Google Podcast

NO DOGS IN SPACE

No Dogs In Space is a music history podcast featuring Marcus Parks and Carolina Hidalgo. They explore the early days of Iggy and the boys as the more innocent of their drug-fueled escapades.

- On Apple Podcast

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

BAIRAVAA

A loan recovery officer, Bhairava, finds a girl who wants to expose a local gangster and starts liking her. However, when he listens to her story, Bhairava decides to help her in her endeavours.

- Cast: Keerthy Suresh, Vijay, Jagapathi Babu, Aparna Vinod

VENKY MAMA

Karthik becomes an orphan after the sudden demise of his parents. Despite opposition from his superstitious grandfather, his maternal uncle decides to raise him as his own.

- Cast: Daggubati Venkatesh, Naga Chaitanya, Payal Rajput, Rashi Khanna

JOGAYYA

Madesha, a resident of Karnataka, single-handedly decides to take action against the plight of exploited farmers and changes the political scenario in the state.

- Cast: Sumit Kaur Atwal, Shiva Rajkumar, Pooja Gandhi

BANGARADA MANUSHYA

When Shivraj, a wealthy businessman living in London, learns how his father led an agricultural revolution to save the farmers, he returns to India to help them again.

- Cast: Vidhya, Shiva Rajkumar, Sadhu Kokila, Sharath Lohitashwa

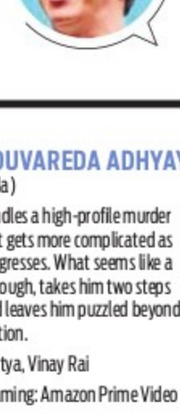
Scan this QR code to find out how your favourite celebs are coping with the lockdown.

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

1 A NEW CLASS OF DRUG THAT COULD PREVENT DEPRESSION AND PTSD

BY REBECCA BRACHMAN

Neuroscientist and TED Fellow Rebecca Brachman shares the story of her team's accidental discovery of a new class of drug that, for the first time ever, could prevent the negative effects of stress – and boost a person's ability to recover and grow.



2 THE PROMISE OF QUANTUM COMPUTERS

BY MATT LANGIONE

What if tiny microparticles could help us solve the world's biggest problems in a matter of minutes? Speaking next to an actual IBM quantum computer, Matt Langione explains how these machines solve complex challenges like developing vaccines and calculating financial risk in an entirely new way.

3 THE RIGGED TEST OF LEADERSHIP

BY SOPHIE WILLIAMS

Equality activist Sophie Williams explores the research-backed reasons behind the workplace phenomenon called 'The Glass Cliff' and how it overwhelmingly affects underrepresented groups, despite a facade of progress and inclusion.

4 LET'S TALK CRAP. SERIOUSLY

BY ROSE GEORGE

2.5 billion people in the world have no access to a basic sanitary toilet. And when there's no loo, where do you poo? In the street, probably near your water and food sources – causing untold death and disease from contamination. Get ready for a blunt, funny, powerful talk from journalist Rose George about a once-unmentionable problem.

5 LEGO FOR GROWNUPS

BY HILLEL COOPERMAN

LEGO blocks: playtime mainstay for industrious kids, obsession for many mature adults. Hillel Cooperman takes us on a trip through the beloved bricks' colourful, sometimes oddball grownup subculture, featuring CAD, open-source robotics and a little adult behaviour.

FIT BIT

PADMA BHUJANGASANA

(LOTUS IN COBRA POSE)

This is a combination of two of Hatha yoga's foundation poses – Padmasana and Bhujangasana – that together create an intermediate level posture that offers an intense backbend and strong stretch for the hips, legs and neck. It also eases fatigue, anxiety and stress. It also opens and balances the Anahata (heart), Svadhisthana (sacral) and Vishuddha (throat) chakras.

STEPS

- Sit comfortably in Padmasana or Ardha Padmasana according to your convenience for a few breaths.
- Then keep your hands behind your knees while pushing with your palms or fingers, and shift your weight to your knees.
- When you lift off your sitting bones, move your hands to your knees and keep them in front of you.
- Lean forward with the help of your knees. Try to adjust your knees and hands.
- Keep your arms straight along with your hands in line with the shoulders.
- Roll forward on your knees and move your hands forward for your comfort.
- Start lowering your torso to the floor. Keep rolling down till your midsection (torso) is flat on the ground.
- Keep your palms on the floor just near your armpits, your fingers pointing forward with your bent elbows pointing back.
- Pressing your palms, arch your back slowly into a backbend. Extend your arms full if you are flexible. If not, keep your elbows a little bent to regulate tension in the back.
- Remain here for around 30 to 60 seconds or as long as you can, but breathe deeply.
- To come out from the pose, bring your torso slowly onto the ground. Put your hands down, come to the initial position and relax.

BENEFITS

- Stretches and strengthens your abs, shoulders, glutes, quads, chest, lower back, groin, inner thighs, and spine.
- Directly targets your quads, lower back, inner thighs and your chest also.
- A good chest-opening exercise.
- Relieves anxiety, fatigue, and stress. Beneficial in lower back problems.
- Boosts the capacity of your lungs. Best for asthmatic patients.

LIMITATIONS

- Don't overarch your back or neck. Bend as much as you can.
- Avoid this if you have a back injury, frequent headaches or carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS).
- Pregnant women strictly avoid this asana.

– by N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

LIFT (Tamil)

A man's first day on the job turns into a nightmare after some vengeful spirits begin to create trouble by trapping him in an elevator.

Cast: Kavin, Amritha Iyer

- Streaming: Disney Hotstar

SARDAR UDHAM (Hindi)

The movie follows the life of Sardar Udham Singh, a revolutionary freedom fighter, who assassinated Michael O'Dwyer in London to avenge the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre in Amritsar.

Cast: Vicky Kaushal, Amol Parashar

- Streaming: Amazon Prime Video

SEETHARAM BENOY (Kannada)

An inspector posted to a rural forested area becomes intrigued with the series of strange robberies and crimes in his jurisdiction and is determined to get to the root of it.

Cast: Vijay Raghavendra, Sathwik Hebbar

- Streaming: Amazon Prime Video

JATHI RATNALU (Telugu)

Three young men leave their village to find decent jobs in the city. However, they find themselves in a pickle when a minister blackmails them for a lost mobile phone.

Cast: Faria Abdullah, Naveen Polishetty, Anudeep KV

- Streaming: Amazon Prime Video

EE NAGARANIKI EMAINDI (Telugu)

Childhood friends Vivek, Karthik, Kaushik, and Uppi hope for careers in film-making during university, but eventually give up and settle into other jobs. To earn money for a wedding, they enter Goa Short Film Festival and rekindle their dream.

Cast: Anisha Ambrose, Abhinav Gomatam

- Watch on: Netflix

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

MUNDUVAREDA ADHYAYA (Kannada)

Bala handles a high-profile murder case that gets more complicated as time progresses. What seems like a breakthrough, takes him two steps back and leaves him puzzled beyond imagination.

Cast: Aditya, Vinay Rai

- Streaming: Amazon Prime Video

UDANPIRAPPE (Tamil)

A woman tries to establish peace in her family when her husband and her brother have an intense difference of opinion over the efficacy of the justice system.

Cast: Jyothika, Sashikumar

- Streaming: Amazon Prime Video

FOREIGN

SQUID GAME (Korean, series)

Hundreds of cash-strapped contestants accept an invitation to compete in children's games for a tempting prize, but the stakes are deadly.

Cast: Lee Jung-jae, Park Hae-soo, O Yeong-su, Wi Ha-joon

- Watch on: Netflix

THE GREEN KNIGHT (English)

This is the story of Gawain, a knight and the nephew of King Arthur, and his encounters with the mysterious Green Knight. The mysterious knight barges into a Christmas feast held by the king and challenges anyone to land a blow on him in exchange for his fabled green axe.

Cast: Dev Patel, Alicia Vikander, Joel Edgerton, Sarita Choudhury

- Streaming: Amazon Prime

BLACK WIDOW (English)

Natasha Romanoff, a former KGB spy, is shocked to find out that her ex handler, General Dreykov, is still alive. While evading capture by Taskmaster, she is forced to confront her dark past.

Cast: Scarlett Johansson, Florence Pugh, David Harbour, O-T Fagbenle

- Available on: Disney+ Hotstar

I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER (English, series)

Teenagers are stalked by a mysterious killer, a year after a fatal accident on the night of their graduation.

Cast: Madison Iseman, Bill Heck, Brianne Tju, Ezekiel Goodman

- Available on: Amazon Prime Video

SUBSCRIPTION

Disney+Hotstar:	₹ 399 per month
Sony Liv:	₹ 299 per month
Prime Video:	₹ 129 per month
Mubi:	₹ 499 per month

HOW TO IDENTIFY BREAST CANCER SYMPTOMS

With one in eight women suffering from breast cancer, here is what you should know about the risk factors leading to the disease

DR VIJAY AGARWAL

BREAST cancer has become a major health concern today with many people suffering from this condition across the globe. According to WHO, in 2020, there were 2.3 million women diagnosed with breast cancer and 6,85,000 deaths globally making it the world's most prevalent cancer.

Breast cancer is not a transmissible or infectious disease. Around 10 per cent of people develop this type of cancer due to hereditary and over 90 per cent due to lifestyle factors. Lack of physical activity, unhealthy diet, increased consumption of alcohol, smoking can increase the chances of breast cancer. Thus it is vital to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

What can one do to reduce the risk of breast cancer?

Multiple risk factors influence the development of breast cancer. Therefore, knowing the risk factors and taking necessary measures is crucial. Regular tests, early diagnosis can help in prevention as well as timely treatment.

While you cannot change the risk factors like genetics, ageing and family history, by following a healthy lifestyle, you can prevent the cancer..

Here are a simple measures you can follow to avoid breast cancer:

1. **Be psychically active**: By staying active, you will be able to maintain a healthy weight. 30 minutes of moderate physical activity every day significantly reduces the susceptibility of breast cancer.
2. **Avoid consumption of alcohol:** Research has shown that drinking alcohol increases the risk of breast cancer. It is best to quit drinking.
3. **Hormone replacement therapy:** Even though this treatment is found to be effective in relieving symptoms of menopause, combined HRT of estrogen and progestin can be associated with a small increase in the risk of breast cancer.

Identifying the symptoms

Some warning signs to look out for are lumps in the breast or underarm (armpit), thickening or swelling of part of the breast, irritation, redness in the nipple, pain, discharge of fluid coming out of one or both nipples, change in the size of the breast. These symptoms can be identified by self-examination. One should also go for other screening methods regularly.

Ways to self-examine

1. Stand in front of the mirror and look out for size, shape, colour, and swelling or any signs of fluid discharge from one or both nipples (this could be a watery, milky, or yellow fluid or blood).
2. Use your fingers and examine your breast carefully for any lumps or thickened areas by going in circular patterns in all the areas. The best way to do this is by lying on the bed and examining each breast.

Importance of diet

A healthy diet promotes healthy living which can reduce the risk of developing breast cancer. It also helps in maintaining a healthy weight, a key factor in preventing breast cancer. Including vegetables, fruits, grains, legumes and nuts in your regular diet help you to avoid many health conditions. For those who have breast cancer, make sure your body gets the proper nutrition. This may help the body heal from cancer treatment, lessen cancer symptoms and side effects of treatment and make your immune system strong.

(The writer is a lead and senior consultant - Medical Oncology & Haematology at Aster CMI Hospital)

WHO ARE AT RISK?

Men are also susceptible to breast cancer. However, it is rare among them. Breast cancer cases are more among women. According to studies, one in eight women develop breast cancer. Some of the known risk factors are

1. **Women above 50 years old or older are more prone to develop breast cancer**
2. **Family history of breast cancer**
3. **People who have undergone radiation therapy**
4. **Genetic mutations - Those who have inherited genes such as BRCA1 and BRCA2 are at higher risk of breast cancer**
5. **Early menstruation and late menopause**
6. **Having the first child at an older age**
7. **Postmenopausal hormone therapy**

Research suggests that birth control pills and intrauterine devices (IUDs), that release hormones, increase the risk of breast cancer. The study found that the risk was greatest among women aged 45 and above who still use the pill and the risk increase by 50% when compared to women who had never used it.

Pills and preventions

DR PRATHIMA REDDY

TERMINATING a pregnancy is not easy. It's taxing on one's body, physically and mentally. So, before you make such a decision, here's everything you need to know about emergency contraception.

What are methods of termination of pregnancy?

It can be performed with tablets or with a minor procedure or surgery. It must be performed by a doctor trained to perform terminations. Pre and post procedure counselling are very important to ensure that the complications and sequelae associated with the procedure are minimal.

A checklist before the procedure would include: an ultrasound scan to determine the location and the age of the pregnancy. Blood tests to check that the woman is not anaemic and to note the blood group and to check for sexually transmitted infections. Counselling may be required for women to prevent psychological sequelae. Women with Rhesus negative blood group would require an injection called Anti D post the procedure to prevent Rhesus iso immunization in future pregnancies. Antibiotics may need to be administered as also pain killers. Post procedure an ultrasound scan would be required if tablets were used, to confirm that complete abortion has taken place.

What are the different types of contraception available?

Contraception can be divided mainly into two categories. Methods with no user failure —methods that don't depend on you remembering to take or use them eg. Intrauterine Device (IUD, commonly known as Cu T or the loop) / Intrauterine System (IUS), Contraceptive Injections, Implants, Sterilization and

Methods with user failure - methods that depend on how well you use them e.g. pills, condoms, diaphragm, natural family planning methods etc. They are also divided into reversible and irreversible or permanent methods. The latter include female and male sterilisation.

The most commonly used contraceptive methods in India are condoms, IUD, contraceptive pills, injectables and female sterilisation. Other less commonly used methods are natural family planning methods, withdrawal, vaginal ring, contraceptive patch, female condom and diaphragm with spermicide.

You cannot get pregnant when you are breast feeding

Pregnancy prevention when breastfeeding is known as the lactational amenorrhea method (LAM). LAM is a good form of birth control for the initial six months after giving birth if all the following conditions are strictly followed - the baby is exclusively breastfed every four hours during the day and every six hours at night, with no pumping or formula supplementation. Under these ideal circumstances it has a failure rate of 2 per 100 women.

However, with typical use, this method is only 75 per cent effective.

Being on the pill reduces your chances of pregnancy in the future This is a popular misconception. The pill does not affect future fertility.

CONTRACEPTIVES A 100 PER CENT EFFECTIVE?

No. Each one of them has a failure rate including the sterilisation operation. However, depending on how well they are used, most of them are very effective. You can discuss failure rates with your doctor.

You must take the pill at the same time everyday

This was true for the older progesterone only pills, but not the common modern pills which your doctor will prescribe. However, it is useful to take the pill at a regular time to help you remember to take the pill everyday and reduce the chances of missing the pill.

I need contraceptive advice should I see a doctor?

Yes, it would be preferable to see your doctor since he/she will need to take a thorough history and do a full examination to help decide which contraceptive method is best for you. Your doctor will also discuss with you the failure rates of the various birth control methods and advise you as to what is to be done in the event of "contraceptive failure".

(The writer is a director, senior obstetrician and Gynaecologist at Fortis La Femme Hospital)

NUGGETS

Aerosols can spread tuberculosis like Covid-19

Much like Covid-19, tuberculosis (TB) is also spread primarily by inhalation of virus-laden aerosols more than coughing, as thought so far, according to study by South African researchers.

Researchers from the University of Cape Town presented the study at the 52nd Union World Conference on Lung Health, being held online between October 19-22. The team showed that about 90 per cent of TB bacteria released from an infected person may be carried in tiny droplets, called aerosols, that are expelled when a person exhales deeply, the New York Times reported. The study echoes the recent findings that SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing Covid-19, along with others such as MERS-CoV, influenza, measles, and the rhinoviruses. —IANS

Air pollutants increase risk of stillbirth

Rising air pollutants are causing stillbirth and premature death of newborn among women living in polluted ambience, said Jugal Kishore, Director, Professor and Head of Department, Community Medicine, Safdarjung Hospital. He said that exposure to high levels of PM2.5 causes premature death among newborns even 1 to 2 weeks after birth, and sometimes causes premature birth too. "The air pollutants go to the placenta through blood and block the vessel that causes stillbirth and premature deaths to newborn," added Kishore.which need serious attention. —IANS

SPINE CHECK

Prolonged sitting can be bad for you. Here are some tips to improve your spine health

DR G PRAKASH

OUR present-day lifestyle involves prolonged hours spent sitting, either working in front of computers or watching television at home. Sitting for long hours everyday not only increases the chances of developing diabetes, heart disease and high blood pressure, but also affects spine health.

Neck and back pain are amongst the most common complaints among desk workers who spend around 8-10 hours a day in a sitting position. Research has shown that prolonged sitting affects the ligaments, muscles, joints and discs of the spine. Inactivity weakens the spinal, gluteal and abdominal muscles which reduce core strength. Bad posture like hunching or slouching forward, sliding to the chair's edge and leaning back, neck bent to look high or down while looking at the computer — all of these can lead to chronic repetitive stress on the trunk muscles and the spine structure that can cause significant back, neck or shoulder pain.

(The writer is the Deputy Chief Medical Officer at Jindal Naturecure Institute)

1. **Poor Posture:** With age, gravity starts to work against us which further compresses the spine. Poor posture can add more trouble to the problem, compressing the spine even further leading to rounding the body, pain and troubling the disks. Back and neck pain also leads to a diminished quality of life among people.
2. **Carrying Heavy Loads:** Carrying heavy grocery bags, backpacks, shopping bags, can make a person lean on one side. When the body stays tilted for long time, it can damage the spine.
3. **Using Mobile Phones:** Though using a mobile is a habit that has become a part of our lifestyle, it is important to remember that it can immensely damage the spine. Craning the neck to use a mobile puts a lot of pressure on the backbone.
4. **High Heels:** Wearing high heels often too frequently can disrupt the alignment of the spine's curvature. This can severely affect posture and can cause the backs and hips to flex.
5. **Bad Sleeping Position:** Bad sleeping positions can be detrimental to spine health. It can put increasing pressure on the spine arch and neck which ultimately leads to joint and back pain.

SOULFUL

Fear and pleasure are two sides of a coin

WE were talking the last time we met here about the whole structure of thought and its activities, how thought does divide, thereby bringing about a great deal of conflict in human relationship. I think this morning we should consider, not intellectually or verbally, what is the nature of pleasure, fear and sorrow. Whether it is at all possible to be totally free of sorrow. And in enquiring into that, again non-verbally, non-intellectually, one has to consider, go into, examine very carefully the whole question of time.

You know it's one of the most difficult things to convey something which not only demands the accuracy of words, but also the accuracy of perception that lies beyond the word, a feeling, a sense of intimate contact with a reality. And if you, listening to the speaker, merely interpret the word according to your personal like and dislike, without being aware of your own tendencies for interpretation, then the word becomes a terrible nuisance, then the word becomes a prison, in which most of us are unfortunately caught. But if one is aware of the meaning of the word and what lies behind the word, then communication becomes extraordinarily interesting. Communication implies, as we were saying the other day, not only a verbal comprehension, understanding the meaning of words, but also going together, examining together, sharing together, creating together. And this is very important specially when we are talking about sorrow, time, the nature of pleasure and fear. This is a very complex question, and every human problem is quite complex. It needs a certain austerity, simplicity of perception. When we use the word 'austere', we don't mean the harshness that's involved in the meaning of that word, a sense of dryness, a sense of discipline, control, following a particular dry course; we are using that word 'austere' stripped of all that meaning of harshness, but there must be the austere simplicity in the examination, in the understanding of what we are going to talk about. One's mind must be very sensitive because sensitivity implies intelligence, and intelligence is beyond the interpretation of the intellect, or the emotional enthusiastic action. And in examining, in looking, in listening, in learning, about time, pleasure, fear and sorrow one has to have this quality of sensitivity of perception, of immediate seeing something as true; which is not possible if, as we explained the other day, intellect with its activity of thought divides, interprets. I don't know if you were all here last time we talked about thought, and the nature of thought and how it divides human relationship. Though thought is necessary, thought as reason, sanity, clarity, objective clear thinking is absolutely necessary, but thought also becomes a dangerous implement when one is analysing, not looking.

— ***Jiddu Krishnamurti***

'SALAGA SUCCESS, AMID CORONA, IS A MIRACLE'

says Duniya Vijay, who is overwhelmed with the response, he has been receiving for his directorial debut

A SHARADHAA

IT'S been a week since Duniya Vijay's debut directorial, *Salaga,* hit the theatres, and the actor-director is overwhelmed with its response. "This success wouldn't have been possible without the support of the entire team as well as the audience," says Vijay, adding, "It's been a long time since I have had a hit in my career. Every time a film flopped, there used to be a blame game, and the hero was first on the list. That pushed me to take this directorial responsibility, and it worked. I should mention that producer KP Sreekanth's support was a definite feather in the cap."

Vijay is happy that the film, which is enjoyed by the mass crowd, is getting equal attention from the family audience too. "Usually a film on rowdyism is referred to as a film about people just holding machetes and guns. However, the making of *Salaga* is different and has many other highlights," says Vijay.

Vijay and the team will be heading on a successful tour soon. "We will begin with Tumkur and travel across Karnataka. We are doing this tour only to take wishes from my audiences, who contributed so much for the film's success. This type of response coming during the pandemic is more or less a miracle."

Vijay shares that he will take time before commencing his next project. "The lockdown, my mother's death, and then, with the release tension, I was in a lot of stress. I need to get mentally prepared before I begin my next project," he says.

> *This success wouldn't have been possible without the support of the entire team as well as the audience* – Duniya Vijay, actor and director

Dhananjay talks about his role as an insurance agent in Rohit Padaki's *Rathnan Prapancha* bankrolled by KRG Studios

'IT'S ALWAYS A PLEASURE TO PLAY A COMMON MAN'

Karthik Gowda on *Rathnan Prapancha* releasing on OTT

Rathnan Prapancha is the first production venture by KRG Studios, and producer Karthik Gowda, who is bankrolling the project along with Yogi G Raj explains why the film took the OTT route at a time when theatres have opened to 100 per cent occupancy. "The decision of *Rathnan Prapancha* hitting OTT was done 5 months ago during the pandemic and when we did not have clarity on the future of theatre reopening. Secondly, with the current flow of films in theatres, our film might not get that proper window in theatres and might be given a maximum of 1 week. With several big-ticket films from different languages also taking over the screens, we decided to go with OTT as it will help the film to get a wider reach. Even though it is known that theatre and OTT are here to co-exist, it is nothing but the pandemic that made us take *Rathnan Prapancha* to the streaming platform," says Karthik.

CE FEATURES

DHANANJAY is probably one of the few actors who got to essay various characters in such a short period of time. The actor, who entered the film industry with *Director's Special,* shot to fame with his role as Daali in *Tagaru.* The actor is currently enjoying the limelight for his role as police officer Samrat in Duniya Vijay's *Salaga*. Dhananjay is all set to showcase yet another facet of his acting skills with his upcoming film, *Rathnan Prapancha.*

The Travel comedy-drama is the latest Kannada film to see an exclusive OTT release and is probably the first of a star's film from Sandalwood to directly get on to the streaming platform The film will stream on Amazon Prime Video from October 22.

Dhananjay says, "The director came to me at a time, when I had indulged myself in playing mass characters, and I could easily connect to the role of the middle-class Insurance agent. It's always a pleasure to play a common man's role, and it is something legendary actors like Dr Rajkumar and Dr Vishnuvardhan have often entertained us with. A hero is not meant to just fight against villains. Even a teacher, a postman, or an insurance agent can take the lead. I was very emotional when Rohit narrated the story, and explained my character Rathnakara. It will be the case when the audiences watch the film," explains the actor.

Dhananjay says *Rathnan Prapancha* is content-driven, and the situations in the film will connect with the audience. "The characters played by various actors including Umashree, Shruti, Anu Prabhakar, Ravi Shankar Gowda, Reba Monica John, Vainidhi Jagadish, and the others who come in Ratnakar's life form the major highlights of the film," says Dhananjay, who makes a special mention about his co-actor, Pramod, and says that the actor will earn a good name post this film. "This being a travel-based subject made it all the more interesting for us. I got to shoot in parts of North Karnataka, and we also went to Kashmir," he adds.

The actor says that R*athnan Prapancha* is a film that can be watched by everyone, and OTT helps cater to the audience large and wide, coming from different backgrounds, and speaking different languages.

A still from *Rathnan Prapancha*

MEGHANA RAJ TO MAKE A COMEBACK WITH A THRILLER

Meghana Raj

CE FEATURES

MEGHANA Raj is all set to make a comeback on the silver screen with a crime thriller, which will be directed by debutant Vishal. Pannaga Bharana, who has made her mark as a director with films like *Happy New Year* and *French Biriyani*, is making her debut as a producer with the project.

The film will be officially launched on Chiranjeevi Sarja's birth anniversary (Oct 17). According to the producer, the crime thriller will have four lead characters, and Meghana is the first to come on board the project. The makers are finalizing the cast members and are planning to take the project on floors by this year-end. The film will have Vasuki Vaibhav scoring the music. Meghana was last seen in *Iruvudellava Bittu* (2018), and she has *Selfie Mummy Google Daddy* and *Buddhivanta 2* in the pipeline.

Meghana Raj along with director Vishal (L), Producer Pannaga Bharana and music director Vasuki Vaibhav

ADARSH GOURAV JOINS ANTHOLOGY SERIES *EXTRAPOLATIONS*

CE FEATURES

ACTOR Adarsh Gourav, who broke out with *The White Tiger* (2021), has landed his next international project.

Adarsh will be seen in Scott Z Burns' Apple TV+ anthology series *Extrapolations.* The star-studded series will also feature Meryl Streep, Sienna Miller, Kit Harrington, Tahar Rahim, Matthew Rhys, Daveed Diggs, Gemma Chan, and David Schwimmer.

Extrapolations explores stories of climate change and its human impact. The eight-part interconnected series displays 'the need for survival world over in the current era'. Adarsh recently flew to New York where the show is expected to go on floors.

Abhishek Bachchan, Amit Sadh return for new season of *Breathe: Into The Shadows*

CE FEATURES

AMAZON Prime Video has greenlit another season of *Breathe: Into The Shadows*. Directed by Mayank Sharma, the sequel will see the return of Abhishek Bachchan, Amit Sadh, Nithya Menen, and Saiyami Kher. They will be joined by Naveen Kasturia in the new season.

"Given the popularity and sheer anticipation around *Breathe: Into The Shadows*, a new season was imminent. As the plot intensifies and new characters infuse raw energy into the narrative, the stakes and the thrill go higher this season," said Aparna Purohit, Head of Originals, Prime Video India.

Breathe: Into The Shadows is created and produced by Abundantia Entertainment. The new season has commenced production in New Delhi and Mumbai. It will launch on Amazon Prime Video in 2022.

Released in 2018, *Breathe's* debut season starred R Madhavan and Amit Sadh. The psychological thriller series was renewed as *Breathe: Into The Shadows* in 2020, with Abhishek Bachchan headlining the cast alongside Amit.

RANI MUKERJI WRAPS UP *MRS. CHATTERJEE VS NORWAY*

CE FEATURES

Rani Mukerji and team have completed filming for *Mrs. Chatterjee Vs Norway.* Directed by Ashima Chibber, the film is based on a real incident that 'rocked children and human rights at an international level'. The film was shot extensively in Estonia and parts of India. Its release date will be announced soon. Speaking about the shoot wrap, Rani said, "It's a really sweet coincidence that I wrapped the shoot of *Mrs. Chatterjee Vs Norway* on the same day that my first Hindi film *Raja Ki Aayegi Baraat* (released)." "*Mrs. Chatterjee Vs Norway* is an inspirational story about a mother fighting a country for her children and I went through a roller-coaster of emotions shooting this film," she added.